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FBIS-NES-94-143 CONTENTS *26 July 1994*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, Husayn Address Washington Summit 1
  Rabin Speaks at Opening *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
  Husayn Address *[Amman TV]* 1
  Rabin Remarks After Ceremony *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
  King Husayn: 25 Jul 'Unique Day' *[Amman Radio]* 2
Israel's Rabin, Peres Comment on Peace With Jordan 2
  Peres Interviewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
  Peres Further Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
  Rabin Interviewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
'Text' of Washington Declaration *[JORDAN TIMES 26 Jul]* 5
Jordanian-Israeli Border Committee To Convene 4 Aug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Palestinian Envoy Views Talks, Husayn-Rabin Meeting *[MENA]* 7
AFP Cited on Husayn's 'Secret' Meetings With Rabin *[Damascus Radio]* 7
Sha'th Views Jordanian-Israeli Step, Jerusalem Issue *[MENA]* 7
Jordanian Move Effects on 'Political Map' Viewed *[AL-HAYAH 22 Jul]* 8
Israel, Jordan, PLO Hold 'Secret' Water Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9

Inter-Arab Affairs

Group Reports Deterioration in Human Rights *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 21 Jul]* 9

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 19 Jul 9

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, al-Husayni Welcome Rabin-Husayn Meeting 11
  'Arafat Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
  Al-Husayni Comments *[London TV]* 12
Prominent Figures React to Washington Summit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
PFLP, Others Reject Husayn-Rabin Summit Meeting 12
  'Treacherous Deal' Seen *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
  PFLP-GC Spokesman Comments *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 12
  'Source' Rejects Agreement *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Washington Declaration's Jerusalem Clause Criticized 13
  'Arafat Aide Cites 'Violation' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
  'Source' Cites 'Severe Blow' *[Jericho VOP]* 13
PNA's Quray' Details Economic Talks With Israelis *[Cairo International]* 13
Police Chief on Weapons Collection, Police Salaries *[MENA]* 14
Israeli Workers Shot at in Gaza; No Injuries *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
'Abd-al-Rahim on PNA Meetings, Budget Deficits *[AL-DUSTUR 25 Jul]* 14
AL-QUDS Views Christopher Visit to Gaza *[22 Jul]* 15
'Arafat: Jerusalem Arabs To Vote in Elections *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Jordan's Gulf Bank To Open Branch in Nabulus *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 25 Jul]* 16
'First Bank' To Be Set Up in Gaza Since Self-Rule *[Algiers VOP]* 16

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Opposition Splits Over Extent of Violence *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Jul]* 17
Soldiers Killed; FIS Condemns 'Split' Attempts *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Jul]* 17
GIA To Announce 'Provisional Government' *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Jul]* 18
Movement for Democracy Committed to Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Finance Minister on Trade, Dinar Issues *[Algiers TV]* 18
Delivery of Natural Gas to Turkey To Begin *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Musa on Government's Peace Efforts, Syrian Track *[MENA]* 19
  Says Jerusalem Negotiable, Concerns All *[MENA]* 20
Musa, Jordanian Envoy View Washington Summit *[Cairo Radio]* 20
PLO's Qaddumi Comments on Peace Talks With Israel *[MENA]* 20
  Refuses to Comment on Jordanian Agreement *[MENA]* 21
  Discusses Aid, Jerusalem Issue *[MENA]* 21
Police Round Up Suspected Muslim 'Militants' *[AFP]* 21
Columnist Asks When Real 'Democracy' Will Be Applied *[AL-AKHBAR 22 Jul]* 21

Libya

JANA Comments on Israeli Overflight Permits *[Tripoli International]* 22
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Bosnian Foreign Minister *[JANA]* 22
Al-Qadhdhafi Talks With President al-Asad *[JANA]* 22
Al-Qadhdhafi Converses With Chad's Deby *[JANA]* 22

Sudan

Spokesman: Armed Forces Committed to Cease-Fire *[SUNA]* 22
Minister, U.S. Envoy Review IGADD Talks, Cease-Fire *[Omdurman Radio]* 23

Tunisia

Ben Ali Calls for International Forces in Rwanda *[Tunis Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Security Defense Deal With China Expected *[KUNA]* 24

Oman

Yemen's 'Abd-al-Ghani Arrives for Talks *[Muscat Radio]* 24
  Talks Focus on Relations *[Muscat Radio]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's 'Rush' To Sign Accord With Israel Criticized *[AL-YAWM 23 Jul]* 25

United Arab Emirates

Yemen's 'Abd-al-Ghani Arrives, Makes Statement *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 25
  Conveys Salih's Message to Zayid *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
  On Amnesty, Emigres' Return, al-Bid *[KUNA]* 26
News Agency Cited on Military Accord With U.S. *[AFP]* 26

Yemen

Sanaa Reports Release of Diplomats in Algeria *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Authorities Release 4,000 Captured Southern Troops *[Kuwait Radio]* 27

Sanaa Sets Conditions for Dialogue With YSP *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Jul]* 27
YSP Accuses Government, Islamic Parties of Reprisals *[AFP]* 27
Former Southern Leaders Discuss Amnesty in Oman *[AFP]* 28
Representatives of North, South To Meet in Geneva *[AFP]* 28
'Open Conflict' Emerging in Ba'th Party Leadership *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Jul]* 28
Salih Receives Libyan Envoy, Congratulations *[Sanaa Radio]* 29

IRAQ

Delegation Said in Paris To Meet Kurds *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Jul]* 30
Egyptian Delegation Arrives To Discuss Imports *[MENA]* 30
Ramadan Views 1994 'Achievements,' U.S. 'Defeat' *[INA]* 30
'Izzat Ibrahim Reportedly Under House Arrest *[AL-MAJD 25 Jul]* 31
Islamic Jihad Leader Cables Appreciation to Saddam *[INA]* 31
July Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to Arab League *[INA]* 31
AL-JUMHURIYAH Disdains U.S. Rwandan 'Deception' *[INA]* 31
Paper Hails Anniversary of July 1968 Revolution *[AL-THAWRAH 17 Jul]* 32

ISRAEL

Rabin on Accord With Jordan, Golan Withdrawal *[Milan PANORAMA 30 Jul]* 33
Mayor: 'No Problem' With Jordan Over Clause *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Division Between Jordan, Palestinians Noted *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jul]* 35
Labor Group Seeks Clear Policies, 'Secure' Borders *[HA'ARETZ 25 Jul]* 35
Histadrut Parliament Convenes, Appoints Executive *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Jul]* 36

JORDAN

Al-Hasan, Others Examine Washington Declaration *[Amman Radio]* 37
Negotiator Notes 'Striking' Jerusalem Clause *[AL-RA'Y 26 Jul]* 37
Al-'Anani Discusses Israeli Boycott, Jerusalem *[AL-DUSTUR 26 Jul]* 37
  Views Declaration, Summit *[Amman Radio]* 38
Land Recognition 'Most Clear' Result of Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Jul]* 38
Minister Orders Israeli Correspondents To Leave *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 25 Jul]* 39
Parties Stage Sit-In, Voice Objection to Peace Talks *[Amman Radio]* 40
  Islamists To Continue To Protest *[JORDAN TIMES 26 Jul]* 40
Damascus Reportedly Turns Down High-Level Visit *[AL-MAJD 25 Jul]* 41
Importers To Pay Some Fees for Lloyds Presence *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Jul]* 41
Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company Ends Meetings *[Amman TV]* 42
U.S. Said Dissatisfied With Leniency Toward Iraq *[AL-MAJD 25 Jul]* 42
Crown Prince Receives Turkish Parliamentarians *[Amman Radio]* 42
  Al-Hindawi Meets Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 43

LEBANON

Al-Hariri Returns; Minister on Jordan-Israel Deal *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Dallul Refuses Normalization With Israel *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Hizballah Leader Says Resistance Stronger *[AL-HAYAH 25 Jul]* 44
Ansarallah Leader Reportedly Questioned *[MENA]* 45
Argentine Ambassador Leaves for Buenos Aires *[MENA]* 45
Hizballah Reported on 'Maximum Alert' in South *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Exchanges of Fire, Katyushas Reported in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
IDF Officer Killed; 13 Soldiers Wounded *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Israeli Fighter Planes Attack Iqlim al-Tuffah *[Beirut Radio]* 46
  Round-Up of Attacks *[Beirut Radio]* 47
'Awn Says Return Depends on 'Syria's Intentions' *[AL-HAYAH 22 Jul]* 47

Syria

Clinton Phones al-Asad on 'U.S. Commitment' *[Damascus Radio]* 48

Damascus TV Carries Washington Summit Speeches ... 48
Information Minister Discusses Peace Efforts *[AL-MUSAWWAR 22 Jul]* ... 48
AL-THAWRAH Views 'Israeli Propaganda' *[Damascus Radio]* ... 50
Commentary Views Peace Possibilities *[Damascus Radio]* ... 50
'Air of Pessimism' Perceived in Peace Efforts *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Jul]* ... 51
Jordanian Parties' Day of 'Mourning' Noted *[Damascus Radio]* ... 52
Al-Shar' Delivers Message to al-Hirawi *[Damascus TV]* ... 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Panic-Stricken' Coalition Leaders Order Executions *[Radio Message of Freedom]* ... 53
Hekmatyar Radio Assails Herat Meeting *[Radio Message of Freedom]* ... 53

India

Spokesman on Code of Conduct Talks With Pakistan *[ISI]* ... 53

Iran

Turkish President Demirel Continues Visit ... 54
    Holds Talks With Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* ... 54
    Presidents Address Banquet *[IRNA]* ... 55
    Khamene'i Receives Demirel *[Tehran Radio]* ... 55
    Demirel on Relations, Islam *[Tehran Radio]* ... 55
Radio Comments on Demirel's Visit, Remarks *[Tehran Radio]* ... 56
Dailies View Demirel Visit, Tehran-Ankara Ties *[IRNA]* ... 56
Cooperation with Turkey Said Needed *[Tehran Radio]* ... 57
Syrian Education Minister Signs Agreement, Departs *[Tehran Radio]* ... 57
Joint Commission With Australia Planned *[IRNA]* ... 58
Tiles Sent to Turkmenistan for Asbestos *[IRNA]* ... 58
New Oil Markets in South Africa, Bulgaria Sought *[IRNA]* ... 58
MKO Official's Interview in Berlin Cited *[KEYHAN 14 Jul]* ... 58
Parliamentary Union Urged To Denounce Terrorism *[IRNA]* ... 58
Nateq-Nuri Blames West for MKO Activity *[IRNA]* ... 59
GATT Membership Said Needed To Ensure Exports *[Tehran TV]* ... 59
Commerce Ministry Bans Scrap Metal Exports *[Tehran Radio]* ... 59
Yazdi, Velayati Address Diplomats Seminar *[Tehran Radio]* ... 59
Seminar for IRNA Correspondents Opens in Tehran *[IRNA]* ... 60
    Khamene'i Urges Vigilance *[Tehran TV]* ... 60
Kuwait's 'Forgetful' Foreign Minister Criticized *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 17 Jul]* ... 61
Need for Dealings With Germany Questioned *[RESALAT 14 Jul]* ... 62
Russia's Efforts at Persian Gulf Presence Viewed *[ABRAR 17 Jul]* ... 63
UAE Arms Deal Said Part of U.S. 'Scenario' *[KEYHAN 17 Jul]* ... 64
Non-Implementation of Resolution 598 Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 18 Jul]* ... 64
TEHRAN TIMES on U.N. Embargo Against Baghdad *[IRNA]* ... 65
Third World's Technology Transfer Problems Viewed *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 13 Jul]* ... 65
Regional Developments Discussed *[ABRAR 18 Jul]* ... 66
Depreciation of Dollar Rate Discussed *[KEYHAN 13 Jul]* ... 67

Pakistan

Former Intelligence Chief Arrested for Treason *[AFP]* ... 68
Former ISI Chief Forms New Political Party *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 68
Joint Chiefs Discuss Effective Defense *[THE NEWS 26 Jul]* ... 68
'Normal Diplomatic Functioning' With India Urged *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 25 Jul]* ... 69
Uzbek Foreign Minister Arrives, Holds Talks *[Islamabad PTV]* ... 69

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, Husayn Address Washington Summit

Rabin Speaks at Opening

TA2507144694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1422 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Speech by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the opening ceremony of the summit meeting with Jordan's King Husayn hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton on the White House lawn in Washington—live, in English]

[Text] President of the United States, King Husayn, the king of Jordan. They say that the ancient custom of shaking hands developed out of the need to prove that neither person was holding a weapon. The first public handshake between his majesty the king of Jordan and myself a minute ago symbolizes much more than the two peoples will no longer take up arms against one another.

Honorable Mr. President, Your Majesty the King: What is actually transpiring here, hundreds of millions of people around the world shake hands many times each day? It is perhaps the most routine action, done almost automatically, without thinking, and it is actually a greeting of peace that unites almost all of the peoples of the world.

And here, the handshake and the excitement, the many photographers, the live broadcast of television to all corners of the globe—I share this excitement and know that at this moment in Jerusalem and Amman, perhaps all over the Middle East, a new era is dawning.

What I do wish you, Your Majesty, that there will be another day of excitement and another, and that finally no one will photograph our handshakes. It will have become part of the routine of our lives; a custom among all people, the behavior of every human being.

And, meanwhile, Your Majesty, the entire State of Israel is shaking your hand. Thank you. [applause]

Husayn Address

JN2507151394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1418 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Speech by Jordan's King Husayn in the Rose Garden of the White House following his first public meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 25 July, in English—live]

[Text] Mr. President, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, ladies and gentlemen:

Out of all the days of my life, I do not believe that there is one such as this in terms of the feelings, the emotions relating to a long, long struggle, the memory of those who passed away, the memories of the victims of war, feelings towards the present and the future, feelings of responsibilities towards generations to come, in Israel, in Jordan, and all the Arab world in our entire region.

For many, many years and with every prayer, I've asked God, the Almighty, to help me be a part of forging peace between the children of Abraham. As Muslims, the word "Islam" means submitting to the one God. This is a dream that those before me had, my late grandfather and now I, and to feel that we are close to fulfilling that dream and presenting future generations in our region with a legacy of hope and openness where normality is that which replaces the abnormal in our lives, which unfortunately over the years has become normal, where neighbors meet, where people meet, where human relations thrive, where all seek with their tremendous talents a better future and a better tomorrow.

This day is a day of commitment and this day is a day of hope and vision. And we must admit, Prime Minister, and for myself, that we owe President Clinton and our American friends much in having made this possible. We are all partners as we seek to construct and build a new future in our region for all our peoples and for all mankind.

Thank you very much indeed for (?inviting us here), kindness and the warmth of your reception. We are proud to be here with you today, Sir. Thank you.

Rabin Remarks After Ceremony

TA2507164594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 25 Jul 94

[Speech by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after signing the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency with Jordan on the south lawn of the White House in Washington—live, in English; italicized passages are translated from Hebrew]

[Text] The President of the United States, His Majesty King Husayn of the Kingdom of Jordan, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

I start by the Hebrew word shalom [peace]. [applause] Millions of eyes all over the world are watching us now with great relief and great joy. Yet, another nightmare of war may be over. At the same time, millions of eyes in the Middle East are looking at us now with great heartfelt hope that our children and grandchildren will know no more war. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, today we submit to our respective people a wonderful present. The declaration we have signed just now here, in Washington, is the closest thing to a treaty of peace. We have gone here a long way towards a full treaty of peace, and even though our work has not yet ended it is my hope and belief that not long from today we shall return to sign a final and a permanent treaty of peace. [applause]

Mr. President, Your Majesty: It is dusk at our homes in the Middle East. Soon darkness will prevail, but the citizens of Israel and Jordan will see a great light. We have today taken a major step on the road to peace. We and Jordan have chosen to speak to each other, rather than to continue the state of war. From here, in the distance of thousands of miles from home, I would like to congratulate today the inhabitants of Israel and of Jordan, to remember the fallen in the wars on both sides, and to tell children on both sides of the border: We hope and pray that your lives will be different than ours.

I believe that we are a small country with a big heart. We are aware of the world's agonies and sufferings of human beings anywhere. At this hour, when we are celebrating here, in Washington, Israeli defense soldiers and a medical unit are trying to save the lives of thousands, if not more, of people on the verge of death in Rwanda. [applause]

But, at the very same time, Israeli soldiers, a rescue team in Buenos Aires, on the invitation of the Argentine Government are endeavoring to rescue the lives or bodies of those who were attacked, killed, and disappeared. Bodies of their own brothers, as well as of the other human beings from buildings destroyed by vicious terrorists. This terrible crime was committed against Jews just because they were Jews. The Israeli rescue soldiers in Rwanda, as well as those in Argentina, together with their comrades in arms defending us at home, are the same side of the same coin.

Mr. President, Your Majesty: There is much more in the Washington Declaration than the parties were planning when they decided to prepare this declaration 10 days ago. It bears witness to our ability in Israel and Jordan to accelerate our efforts towards peace, to overcome obstacles, to achieve a breakthrough, and to put an end to 46 years of hostility.

Mr. President, thank you; thank you for all you have done for us and for what you will do. [applause]

We embark on a road which must still be completed. And, I am appealing to the United States, the leader of peace efforts in the Middle East, to assist those countries, those peoples who demonstrate courage and who take risks, risks for peace, because it is a worthwhile goal.

The political achievements presented today to the public here in Washington are part of a whole agenda that must still be clarified in serious deliberations ahead of us. From the difficult subjects of boundaries and water, to trade and economic relations on which peace in our region will be based. And, of course, security and diplomatic relations. Our duty, starting today, is to turn the articles written on the paper into a living reality.

This fine job could not have been completed without your leadership and determination in the Middle East peacemaking. You have already established your place in our history, an honorable place. And, thank you. [applause]

Our heartfelt gratitude goes also to Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his peace team, who devotedly seek peace, and to generations of former U.S. Administration members who have for years searched for a bridge between Israel, Jordan, and the other Arab peoples.

Your Excellency, the President of the United States, Your Majesty the King of Jordan: Let me say a few words in Hebrew to the citizens of Israel who are watching us now.

Dear citizens of Israel, we add today yet another rung to the ladder leading to the realization of the dream of peace. Full peace with Jordan is attainable. We shall toil with Jordan in order to bring it to fruition. We all share today in the blessing of the Washington Declaration: Israelis, Jordanians, all peace and freedom seekers in the world. Tomorrow morning we shall all wake up to a new page in our history. It may be said in this respect: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Good evening to all of you back home in Israel. Tomorrow we hope everything will be different. Peace greetings to you from the act of peacemaking.

Thank you very much. [applause]

King Husayn: 25 Jul 'Unique Day'

JN2607053694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] U.S. President Bill Clinton and Mrs. Clinton have held a dinner banquet at the White House in honor of Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Mrs. Rabin.

The banquet was attended by senior Jordanian, American, and Israeli officials. During the dinner, President Clinton said the agreement his majesty and Premier Rabin have signed is an inspiring and practical blueprint and a foundation for lasting peace between two peoples who have been divided for too long.

At the banquet, his majesty described yesterday as a unique day for all who have yearned for a new day in the Middle East. On his part, Premier Rabin said he believes relations between Jordan and Israel can serve as an example to others.

His majesty and Mr. Rabin were to address a joint session of Congress this afternoon. The addresses will be broadcast live on Jordan radio and television. [passage omitted]

Israel's Rabin, Peres Comment on Peace With Jordan

Peres Interviewed

TA2507192994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1909 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Raz at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington—live]

[Text] [Peres] We should use the means necessary to turn what was agreed upon into a reality. We should move from opening peace to a full and real peace. We should form creative and positive relations between the two countries, not only to get rid of past practices, but also to pave a true road for the new era.

[Raz] When will Israeli citizens be able to feel this peace in practice? In other words, when will I, with an Israeli passport, be able to travel to Petra for instance?

[Peres] I think it is not a matter of too long a while.

[Raz] Are you still of the opinion that a full peace treaty will be realized between the two countries by the end of 1994?

[Peres] I still maintain that there is a chance of this. I cannot guarantee a date.

[Raz] The inevitable question, again: What are the implications for Syria?

[Peres] Very positive implications.

[Raz] Do you believe the process with Syria will be accelerated now?

[Peres] Look, Syria could either be the first or the last in this process. Since they lost the chance to be the first, they will drag out the chance to be last.

Peres Further Comments

TA2507211694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2017 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Razi Barqay and Udi Segal following the signing of the Washington Declaration at the White House on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] [Barqay] Mr. Foreign Minister, when was the final formulation of the Washington Declaration concluded?

[Peres] I think it was this morning.

[Barqay] Were there also disagreements on clause three which talks about nonbelligerency?

[Peres] I would prefer that the prime minister, not I, address all these issues.

[Barqay] Are you pleased with what has been agreed upon?

[Peres] Very.

[Barqay] Did the agreement also favorably surprise you? It does include far-reaching formulations.

[Peres] All in all, the declaration favorably surprised me. I regard it highly and am very pleased with it. Some elements in it were included in previous arrangements, but the entire package and its formulation are very good.

[Segal] The most problematic clause from the Palestinian point of view, as we already hear, is the clause concerning Jordan's involvement in control of the holy sites in Jerusalem. Do you foresee problems in this area?

[Peres] I surely anticipate speeches. I do not know about problems, but one must not forget that the Waqf which is responsible for the holy sites has so far been under the influence and management of the Jordanians. They are also the ones who paid the Waqf salaries. The Jordanian king gave his own money to repair the al-Aqsa Mosque's dome, and Israel has no reason in the world to shift this from Jordanian to other hands, or to underestimate the role Jordan has played here. I want to add that what the king said about a solution of the Jerusalem problem in the future is also very impressive.

[Segal] What does that mean?

[Peres] What the king said is: Let us distinguish between the religious and political aspects.

[Barqay] Are there oral agreements which do not appear in the written document?

[Peres] There has been talk. We have issues to discuss and work on, and the most important thing is to look for the means necessary to translate the good declarations into a new reality.

[Barqay] Does means imply that Israel will ask for an increase in U.S. aid, which is currently a grant of $3 billion annually?

[Peres] I do not think that Israel will do this. Israel is very well aware of U.S. budgetary constraints. Still, there are other sources and other possibilities. Among other things, in our conversation with the President at noon today we mentioned the matter of privatization, of private companies participating in the building of a new Middle East.

[Barqay] You mean private U.S. companies?

[Peres] Private companies, including U.S., European, Japanese, Korean, and others worldwide.

[Segal] Do you view the Washington Declaration with Jordan as a mini-peace agreement?

[Peres] I view the Washington Declaration as a draft peace treaty.

[Segal] This declaration is a far-reaching one in all respects: the religious and political issues; King Husayn's declarations; and the initial steps toward normalization. How did the Jordanian king muster the courage to make such a big step forward?

[Peres] You know, there is a story about an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] swimming trainer who told guys who tried to swim across Lake Tiberias that if they reach the middle of the lake and feel tired they should not try to swim back; it takes the very same effort to reach the other shore. This is one of those things where it is pointless to stop once you reach the middle of the lake.

[Barqay] Let me ask you finally, Mr. Peres, whether you feel a little hurt during this visit.

[Peres] I do not feel hurt. This is not a personal matter. This is nobody's personal possession. Is this a personal matter, after all? We serve a country and a policy. We are proud to do so. We are owed nothing, except to say thank you for having had the opportunity to serve such an important cause and to promote it so clearly.

[Barqay] Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

Rabin Interviewed

TA2607075594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Raz, Arye Golan, and Arye Gus in Washington on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, how close are we to signing a peace agreement with Jordan? Will it happen within months, by the end of 1994?

[Rabin] Look, it is pointless to predict precisely what will take place and when. I believe today we have made a significant step toward a peace treaty with Jordan. I believe the decision we made in May—in fact it started prior to May due to the stalemate in relations with Jordan since the end of 1993. [sentence as heard; in response to a similar question posed by Gadi Sukenik in a recorded interview at the Mayflower Hotel carried by Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 2100 GMT on 25 July, Rabin says: "Toward the beginning of 1994 there was a stalemate in Israeli-Jordanian relations. After reviewing the situation I decided to meet the king. We held a secret meeting on 19 May. Instead of trying to solve our problems in one fell swoop we decided to proceed in stages."] This called for a reassessment of what we can achieve with Jordan. It is certainly desirable to attain a peace treaty. In the circumstances prevailing, however, it was hard to do this. A serious effort in this direction was made at the end of 1993, but it failed.

[Golan] Why did the attempt on the third of November fail?

[Rabin] Because Jordan retreated. The agreement with the Palestinians is not a peace agreement. Syria is not moving. In the context created in the framework of the Madrid conference it was unlikely that Jordan would suddenly take the lead in the peace moves, 15 years after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel. I believe it was therefore significant to proceed in two stages, just as we have done with the Palestinians. With the Palestinians we started with an interim agreement and self-rule for the Palestinians while maintaining the settlements and overall responsibility for our security. There was room to take a large step forward with the Jordan, to improve the atmosphere and continue the momentum toward peace, because beyond the agreement with the Palestinians we have not achieved anything.

As is well known, the agreement with the PLO was and still is problematic. We made the right decision, however, because without it there was no chance to achieve what we have just achieved with Jordan today. At the moment Jordan is no longer responsible for the Palestinian issue and the talks with it deal only with the bilateral sphere; Jordan east of the Jordan River, beyond the borders which existed during the British mandate, is a different Jordan and it is possible to attain new agreements with it. I believe that thanks to the new atmosphere.... [pauses] I believe the psychological barriers are harder to overcome than other issues, and once they crumble, or at least are reduced, it is easier to deal with the practical issues. In the case of Jordan they are relatively easy to overcome. I believe, moreover, that launching a formal process with Jordan, such as the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency—although the king, in his speech, defined it as an end to the state of war—as well as additional moves, creates a formal framework which has also changed things on the ground.

Not everything is happening in Washington and not everyone is dependent on Syria for permission on whether to go to Washington. We have been talking separately with the Palestinians for a long time, and now we are doing this with Jordan, not because we do not strive for comprehensive peace, but because it will be easier for us to reach solutions via direct, bilateral negotiations and by overcoming the psychological barriers. I consider today's occasion as extremely significant in terms of its Israeli-Jordanian ramifications, the entire peace process, and the entire world.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, one of the interesting clauses in the Washington Declaration is the Jerusalem issue. You said you formulated this clause yourself. What is there in this clause beyond promising Jordan a special role in the future as well?

[Rabin] Perhaps people in the PLO will express some wonder about this, but this clause recognizes the present situation. Today the responsibility for the Islamic holy sites is in the hands of Higher Islamic Council, the Waqf. The Waqf is mainly financed by Jordan. Moreover, over the last two years Jordan and King Husayn personally have invested approximately $10 million in coating the Dome of the Rock with a gold leaf. Therefore, this clause mainly recognizes the present situation. The clause, however, does not actually deal with the Jerusalem issue. What it does say is that when we reach the negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem—and our position on this is unequivocal: Jerusalem will remain united under Israel's sovereignty as the capital of Israel and the Jewish people.... [pauses] If you read this clause carefully you will notice it distinguishes between the political sphere and the religious issue of dealing with the Islamic holy sites. There are many claimants to religious patronage in the Arab world: Saudi Arabia, the PLO, the king of Morocco in his capacity as chairman of the Arab League's Jerusalem Committee, and certainly Jordan, which has financed the Waqf until the present time. In anticipation of the talks on Jerusalem I prefer to start preparing for dealing with its political unity as the capital of Israel on the one hand, and a separate solution to the Islamic and Christian religious sites.

[Gus] Mr. Prime Minister, Syrian television relayed the White House speeches, including your own speech, including the part in Arabic. How will the agreement with Jordan influence progress on the Syrian track?

[Rabin] I assume you were referring to my speech in Hebrew, not Arabic. That was a mistake on your part. Let me reiterate that I was never fond of international conferences. We are in the process of changing the Madrid conference without changing the framework for the bilateral negotiations. The fact that the official Syrian television relayed the speech perhaps indicates they are becoming more flexible in a sphere we find very important, namely public diplomacy. This means presenting Israeli information in a completely different manner than Syria is presently doing; allowing Israeli correspondents to enter, and implementing steps which will convince the Israeli public—not me—that Syria wants peace and is willing to pay the price of peace.

[Gus] Do you expect quick progress?

[Rabin] In our last meeting last Thursday [21 July], Secretary of State Christopher told me he was informed by Syria that it is interested in the continuation of the process in the shape of more Christopher visits. The emphasis was on wanting to continue with the negotiations, even if there are no immediate results. This is also our aim. We are interested in reaching comprehensive peace, and certainly in solving with Syria's help the painful problems in Lebanon. Just today an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed in Lebanon's security zone, and this is a painful reminder of how important it is to make progress with the Syrians. Not at all costs, but we should certainly not terminate all contacts. I regard it as a positive thing that both the Syrians and ourselves are interested in continuing with the negotiations. I believe that the progress achieved with the Palestinians and with Jordan today will be advantageous rather than detrimental in this respect.

[Golan] Mr. Rabin, this is a great day for you personally and for Israel generally. Why, then, did you today sharply criticize what you termed as stupid legislators and the nonsensical social welfare lobby?

[Rabin] Perhaps I should not have spoken in this way today. I was asked a question about coalition problems, and I said what I said. We must remember that alongside the great things we also have to deal with petty and painful issues which harm Israeli society.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, in the dinner hosted by President Clinton today you recalled that both of you will end your terms more or less at the same time, and you expressed the hope that you will both be reelected. Is this an announcement regarding your intention to run for again in 1996?

[Rabin] This was dinner conversation. I still have a lot of time to make a decision. Obviously, I do not rule out the possibility that I continue to serve if I am reelected. For me the important thing today is to exhaust the great opportunities which we have opened with the Palestinians and Jordan. We have more than two years to consolidate and advance what we have achieved so far and expand it to the Syrian track as well.

[Raz] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

'Text' of Washington Declaration

JN2607061694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 94, p 1

["Full text" of the Washington Declaration signed by King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington on 25 July]

[Text]

The Washington Declaration July 25, 1994

A. After generations of hostility, blood and tears and in the wake of years of pain and wars, His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are determined to bring an end to bloodshed and sorrow. It is in this spirit that His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the prime minister and minister of defence, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin of Israel, met in Washington today at the invitation of President William J. Clinton of the United States of America. The initiative of President William J. Clinton consititutes an historic landmark in the United States' untiring efforts in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. The personal involvement of the president has made it possible to realise agreement on the content of this historic declaration. The signing of this declaration bears testimony to the president's vision and devotion to the cause of peace.

B. In their meeting, His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have jointly reaffirmed the five underlying principles of their understanding on an agreed common agenda designed to reach the goal of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab states and the Palestinians, with Israel.

1. Jordan and Israel aim at the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbours and at the conclusion of a treaty of peace between both countries.

2. The two countries will vigorously continue their negotiations to arrive at a state of peace, based on

Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects, and founded on freedom, equality and justice.

3. Israel respects the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. When negotiations on the permanent status will take place, Israel will give high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines. In addition, the two sides have agreed to act together to promote interfaith relations among the three monotheistic religions.

4. The two countries recognize their right and obligation to live in peace with each other as well as with all states within secure and recognised boundaries. The two states affirmed their respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area.

5. The two countries desire to develop good neighbourly relations of cooperation between them to ensure lasting security and to avoid threats and the use of force between them.

C. The long conflict between the two states is now coming to an end. In this spirit, the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel has been terminated.

D. Following this declaration and in keeping with the agreed common agenda both countries will refrain from actions or activities by either side that may adversely affect the security of the other or may prejudice the final outcome of negotiations. Neither side will threaten the other by use of force, weapons or any other means against each other and both sides will thwart threats to security resulting from all kinds of terrorism.

E. His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin took note of the progress made in the bilateral negotiations within the Jordan-Israel track last week on the steps decided to implement the sub-agendas on borders, territorial matters, security, water, energy, environment and the Jordan Rift Valleys. In this framework, mindful of items of the agreed common agenda (borders and territorial matters) they noted that the boundary sub-commission has reached agreement in July 1994 in fulfillment of part of the role entrusted to it in the sub-agenda. They also noted that the sub-commission for water, environment and energy agreed to mutually recongise, as the role of their negotiations, the rightful allocations of the two sides in Jordan River and al-Yarmuk River waters and to fully respect and comply with the negotiated rightful allocations, in accordance with agreed acceptable principles with mutually acceptable quality.

Similary, His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed their deep satisfaction and pride in the work of the trilateral commission in its meeting held in Jordan on Wednesday, July 20, 1994, hoste by the Jordanian prime minister, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and attended by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. They voiced their pleasure at the association and commitment of the United States in this endeavour.

F. His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believe that steps must be taken to both overcome psychological barriers and to break with the legacy of war. By working with optimism towards the dividends of peace for all the people in the region, Jordan and Israel are determined to shoulder their responsibilities towards the human dimension of peacemaking. They recognize imbalances and disparities are a root cause of extremism which thrives on poverty and unemployment and the degradation of human dignity. In this spirit, His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have today approved a series of steps to symbolise the new era which is now at hand:

1. Direct telephone links will be opened between Jordan and Israel.

2. The electricity grids of Jordan and Israel will be linked as part of a regional concept.

3. Two new border crossings will be oepend between Jordan and Israel—one at the southern tip of al-'Aqabah-Elat, and the other at a mutually agreed point in the north.

4. In principle free access will be given to third country tourists travelling between Jordan and Israel.

5. Negotiations will be accelerated on opening international air corridors between both countries.

6. The police forces of Jordan and Israel will cooperate in combating crime with emphasis on smuggling and particularly drug smuggling. The United States will be invited to participate in this joint endeavour.

7. Negotiations on economic matters will continue in order to prepare for future bilateral cooperation including the abolition of all economic boycotts.

All these steps are being implemented within the framework of regional infrastructural development plans and in conjunction with the Jordan-Israel bilaterals on boundaries, security, water and related issues and without prejudice to the final outcome of the negotiations on the items included in the agreed common agenda beween Jordan and Israel.

G. His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have agreed to meet periodically or whenever they feel it necessay to review the progress of the negotiations and express their firm intention to shepherd and direct the process in entirety.

H. In conclusions, His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wish to express once again their profound thanks and appreciation to President William J. Clinton and his administration for their untiring efforts in furthering the cause of peace, justice and prosperity for all the peoples of the region. They wish to thank the president personally for his warm welcome and hospitality. In recognition of their appreciation to the president, His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have asked President William J. Clinton to sign this document as a witness and as a host to their meeting.

His Majesty King Husayn/Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin/President William J. Clinton.

Jordanian-Israeli Border Committee To Convene 4 Aug

TA2507114694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Israeli Border Committee will convene on 4 August, it was decided at a meeting held by teams representing the Foreign Ministries of the two countries at the Dead Sea today. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the full delegations will continue their deliberations on 8 August.

Palestinian Envoy Views Talks, Husayn-Rabin Meeting

NC2507113794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has described today's summit meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as an important one and a step forward that will help promote the peace process.

In a statement to MENA today, Subayh expressed hope that the Washington summit will create a change in Israeli society, alter the mentality of Israeli leaders, and persuade the Israelis that the Arabs are fully prepared to make a just and comprehensive peace.

Subayh said that King Husayn had repeatedly told the Palestinians of the need to achieve a comprehensive and just peace on all tracks in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace, including Jerusalem [bima fi dhalika al-Quds].

Told that Yitzhaq Rabin will give King Husayn a gift of an album that includes photos of the renovation of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, Subayh said that there are Palestinian-Israeli differences about Jerusalem. Israel has exceeded international law and UN Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem and is violating the Oslo Agreement, which places Jerusalem on the agenda of the coming talks. Therefore, neither Rabin or any other Israeli leader has the right to speak about holy Jerusalem, he added.

Ambassador Subayh, who is also secretary of the Palestine National Council, said that a Palestinian-Israeli session of talks scheduled for today in Cairo was canceled because both delegations failed to arrive. The talks will resume tomorrow, Tuesday, in Cairo, he stated. There are still differences between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations on several items on the agenda, including the release of Palestinian detainees and the school curricula in the self-rule areas. Israel has requested the omission of any hostile material from the curricula, Subayh pointed out.

AFP Cited on Husayn's 'Secret' Meetings With Rabin

JN2507194994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The AFP has carried a report on Jordanian-Israeli meetings. The report says: Nine secret meetings were held between King Husayn and Rabin before the Washington meeting today and the tenth meeting was held within the sight and hearing of everybody.

The agency added that King Husayn met with the Israeli prime minister for the first time in public in Washington today. King Husayn, the agency said, was 13 years old when he attended the first meeting in May 1948 between his grandfather, Prince 'Abdallah of Trans-Jordan, and Golda Meir, who later became prime minister of Israel.

Eleven years after he ascended the throne, the agency said, King Husayn resumed contacts and met with an Israeli envoy in London in 1963. In 1965 he met in Paris with Golda Meir, who was foreign minister at that time, and discussed with her the issue of the borders and water.

The agency added that in January 1976, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban held a secret meeting with King Husayn, and that over the past 19 years, King Husayn has held about 20 meetings with Israeli officials.

Sha'th Views Jordanian-Israeli Step, Jerusalem Issue

NC2607132594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—The Israeli-Palestinian talks concerning the early empowerment of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank resumed today. The Palestinian side was headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, and the Israeli side by Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

Dr. Sha'th said the two sides will complete the discussion regarding the transfer of authority in education and health affairs. He added that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement is a step within the framework of the comprehensive peace solution. We signed the Declaration of Principles and then the Gaza-Jericho Agreement in Cairo and we always believed that this was part of a comprehensive solution. So the Jordanian step constitutes part of this solution, Dr. Sha'th said. He expressed the hope that the Jordanian step will lead to a Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli peace agreement soon.

Asked whether Jerusalem will be discussed by the Arab League, Dr. Sha'th said that the issue of Jerusalem has been discussed by all Arab institutions. It is an old issue and the struggle to safeguard the Arabism of Jerusalem, its affiliation, and its Islamic, Christian, and Palestinian institutions is continuing. We will never abandon this issue, Dr. Sha'th added.

The Palestinian official said that Jerusalem is always at the heart, it is the capital, of the future Palestinian state. He said: We are not only responsible for the position of the Palestinian people, but for the position of all Arab, Islamic, and Christian nations that view Jerusalem as the first of the two kiblahs and the third holy place. Everything holy for the Muslims and Christians, including the holy sepulcher is in Jerusalem, he added.

Dr. Sha'th said: We have come today to see how much the peace process affects our negotiations. I believe that this is a test and if we succeed today in transferring the authority regarding education and health it will be a positive step forward. He said that the round of talks will deal with the issue of education and health. I will also meet Danny Rothschild regarding the peace process.

Dr. Sha'th said that the departure of the Israeli delegation to Washington has delayed the discussion of security issues pertaining to the detainees, the size of Jericho, and the crossings. He added that all these issues will be discussed next week.

Jordanian Move Effects on 'Political Map' Viewed

MM2507134694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 15

[Article by Joseph Samahah: "Jordanian Move and Missing Plan"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher says—rightly—that "the recent Jordanian move changes the political map of the Middle East." To understand this statement one must forget the fine empty statements about "a comprehensive peace," "the necessity to achieve progress on all the tracks," and so on. These are slogans for local consumption, that is all. Each separate agreement builds new balances of power that influence what follows it. And just as "Camp David" governed what followed it, the "declaration of principles" has left its clear marks on the "recent Jordanian move," which will in turn influence the Syrian (and Lebanese) track.

What change is Christopher referring to?

Since the Oslo accord—at least—the Arab east has been witnessing (apart from the continued embargo imposed on Iraq) two parallel moves: The first is Israeli, and is aimed at changing the relationship with the Palestinians and forcing them to accept a solution offering something below their minimum demands in return for continuing to subjugate them and turn them into a tool that serves Zionist orientations in the next stage. The second move is Syrian and is aimed at consolidating relations with Lebanon, settling the issue of Lebanon's staunch link with Damascus, and affirming its right to have the first (and last?) word vis-a-vis Lebanon's crusial issues, externally and.... internally.

These two moves in practice led to keeping Jordan in the gravitation zone. This situation continued for months until the two regional powers' boundaries of strength became clear. The U.S. Administration intervened and exerted pressure, so Jordan responded with the "recent move," which points—sufficiently—to the identity of the rising power in the region. Amman embarked on its step as a result of numerous considerations that define the framework of this "sovereign action" and the extent of its response to the temptations offered to the Kingdom because of Arab stands toward it that involve rejection, threats, and offers of a coordination that is devoid of any serious substance.

It was agreed at the tripartite U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian meetings to "study joint enterprises in the areas of trade, banking, finance, industry, civil aviation, and tourism, and to build a road between the two countries." A number of other matters were also agreed, beginning with environmental issues through to measures to build trust. It is almost a repetition of the clauses of the economic agreement between Israel and the PLO. It is a repetition that exposes the shallowness of the economic agreement between Jordan and the PLO, which no one has signed seriously or intends to implement!

Citing this "world" of negotiation and agreement issues is necessary, because they also point to what is being prepared for the region and to the weapons of persuasion owned by Israel and the United States supporting it. It is also necessary in order to warn of the huge Arab defect represented in the lack of any view of what environmental and "Middle Eastern" relations could come to in the foreseeable future. Damascus bears a special responsibility for this defect, because it has never—even once—based its "leadership" of the negotiations on a clear program, or, at least, on broad outlines on the basis of which it can address Jordan (for example) and its real interests and thus attract it to a Syrian-Lebanese axis, whose features are still unclear.

Separation in negotiation and then in a solution is an indication of future separation in economic relations whose pivot and compulsory passageway is Israel, even if these relations are among Arab states. That evil can only be repulsed by proposing a plan for future Arab relations—a plan representing a base not only for coordination in negotiations, but also for a future and inevitable coexistence. This plan is still missing, and the region is entering—very fast—into a phase that makes it at best very difficult to achieve.

Israel, Jordan, PLO Hold 'Secret' Water Talks

TA2607045494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] It has been confirmed that Israel, Jordan, and the PLO have been holding secret talks on regional water issues in Oslo. In an interview with Norwegian television, the head of the Israeli delegation, Avraham Katz-'Oz, said that the talks were aimed at achieving understanding on this issue. The television broadcast said that agreement in fact had already been reached on the division of water resources in the area.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Group Reports Deterioration in Human Rights

NC2607074894 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Jailan Halawi]

[Text] Reflecting a growing deterioration in human rights in the Arab world, the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) 1993 annual report revealed that more than one-third of Arab countries have poor human rights records.

AOHR Secretary-General Muhammad Fa'iq said in a press conference Monday [18 July] that acts of terrorism, political assassinations carried out by outlawed groups, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detention, torture and restrictions on freedom of expression persist in most Arab countries.

Fa'iq, reflecting a growing Arab popular demand, called upon the United Nations Security Council to lift the embargo on Iraq due to its devastating effects on the Iraqi people. He asserted that its continuation represents a sort of "collective punishment", against Iraqis. According to the AOHR report both mortality and infant mortality rates soared between 1990 and 1993.

Regardless of the signing of the peace accord between the PLO and Israel, human rights violations continue in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, as evidenced by the study's results. Thousands of Palestinians remain inside prisons, while unrestricted use of live ammunition, torture, arbitrary detention, destruction of houses, confiscation of Arab land and lack of fair trials have been routine practices by the Israeli occupation army.

The report denounced the repeated acts of reciprocal violence between some Arab governments and armed Islamist groups, citing Algeria and Egypt as examples. In Egypt, the report said, "raging confrontations between the government and the armed Islamic groups assumed new dimensions qualitatively and quantitatively. Reciprocal acts of violence which accompanied this confrontation led to the violation of the right to life in an unprecedented manner exceeding the total number of victims during the preceding three years."

The report also condemned the mistreatment of political prisoners and other detainees in several Arab countries. "Detention remained extremely arbitrary, lacking the simplest basic internationally accepted norms."

The number of death sentences handed down in cases of political violence "increased in an unprecedented manner", according to the report, particularly in Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait and Jordan.

However, the AOHR report strongly condemned outlawed Islamic extremist groups for violating many human rights themselves. Armed Islamist groups in Egypt were deemed responsible for most of the violence during 1993, killing top government officials, policemen, secular intellectuals, Christian Copts and foreign tourists. Armed groups in Algeria were even more violent, destroying public utilities and intentionally killing several writers, journalists, teachers and human rights activists for their dissenting opinions. The latest victim of Algerian extremist violence was a member of the AOHR Board of Trustees, Yusuf Fathallah.

Fa'iq expressed hope that more attention would be given to the disappearance of Libya's former foreign minister and member of the AOHR Board of Trustees, Mansur al-Kikhya. Al-Kikhya is believed to have been abducted in Cairo last December after attending an AOHR board meeting.

The AOHR report noted that the continuation of the civil war in Sudan constituted intense human rights violations. "All parties were involved in bloody campaigns which did not spare civilians and resulted in several extra-judicial killings," the report said. It also condemned Sudan's military government's human rights record, in particular the suppression of its opponents.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 19 Jul

NC2307155894

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 19 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Brotherhood Guide Congratulates Yemeni Leaders
2. Human Rights Body Appeals to Mubarak To Stop Executions
3. 'Popular Indignation' at Decision Banning Veils in Schools
4. Mufti Says Abortion Is Religiously Proscribed
5. Lawyer Demands Rescinding Decision on School Uniform
6. Iraqi Minister Interviewed on UN 'Blockade', Domestic Issues

7. 'Some' Arab Media Adopt Strategy To Confront Islamic Trend
8. Islamist Writer Discusses Veil Issue, ICPD
9. Writer Views National Dialogue Debates
10. Article Analyzes Terrorism Causes, Sources
11. Lawyers Urge New Constitution, Release of Detainees
12. Islamic Society Books, Cassettes Confiscated
13. Suspect Islamic Group Members Arrested
14. Palestinian Leaders Discuss Changes to PLO Charter
15. Al-Ghazali Criticizes Francophone Movement

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD GUIDE CONGRATULATES YEMENI LEADERS

A 50-word report on page 1 says that Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr has sent congratulatory cables to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to the speaker of the Yemeni parliament praising "unity, the end of sedition, and the declaration of an official amnesty."

HUMAN RIGHTS BODY APPEALS TO MUBARAK TO STOP EXECUTIONS

An approximately 160-word report on the same page indicates that the Egyptian Human Rights Organization has appealed to President Mubarak to halt the military court's sentence to execute the defendants charged with attempting to assassinate the interior minister. In its statement, the organization noted that many lawyers complained that they did not have enough time to study the case and that the organization's lawyer was banned from attending court sessions.

'POPULAR INDIGNATION' AT DECISION BANNING VEILS IN SCHOOLS

An approximately 450-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on page 1 says the Education Ministry under secretary and other officials have distributed leaflets to all schools forbidding female students from wearing veils, in addition to instructions detailing the type of school uniforms to be worn by female students. The report adds that the decision prompted "strong anger and indignation" from parents who are now contacting senior "national and Islamic lawyers" to file suits to rescind the education minister's decision. The parents, the report continues, also made contacts with a number of ulema to issue a religious decree on the issue.

MUFTI SAYS ABORTION IS RELIGIOUSLY PROSCRIBED

Page 1 also carries a 440-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im indicating that the Republic's mufti has said that abortion is religiously proscribed.

LAWYER DEMANDS RESCINDING DECISION ON SCHOOL UNIFORM

An approximately 600-word report on page 2 indicates that a lawyer in the Higher Appeals Court and State Council has filed a suit against the minister of education demanding an expeditious cancellation of the ministry's decision on female student uniforms in preparatory and secondary schools. The report says the lawyer noted that the decision violates God's teachings mentioned in the Koran. The lawyer also notes that the decision violates Article 2 of the Constitution stipulating that the state's religion is Islam and Islamic shari'ah is the primary source of legislation.

IRAQI MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON UN 'BLOCKADE', DOMESTIC ISSUES

Page 4 carries an approximately 3,000-word interview with the Iraqi information minister, who discusses in detail various issues, such as the outcome of the Arab information ministers' conference, the 'media blockade' of Iraq, UN sanctions, inflation, and the domestic situation.

'SOME' ARAB MEDIA ADOPT STRATEGY TO CONFRONT ISLAMIC TREND

An approximately 660-word report on page 4 on the outcome of the 54th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council says that "some Arab media agencies, primarily in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia, have begun to implement a unified Arab strategy to confront the Islamic trend." The report adds that the strategy calls for defaming the Islamic trend's leading figures, imposing a blackout on their successes, exaggerating their negative aspects, and isolating the trend from the "masses". The report indicates that the Council emphasized that the principles of "True Islam" are the ones propagated only by the state's clergymen and that the Council stressed the governments' "full control" over mosques. The report notes: "And we can conclude that the strategy views the usage of religious terminology in handling political issues by any legal or illegal political party or trend as involving religion in politics. This requires Arab media agencies to defame and expose such a party or trend, exaggerate its dangers, and impose a blackout on its successes and the successes of its leaders and even of its ulema and officials in any position."

ISLAMIST WRITER DISCUSSES VEIL ISSUE, ICPD

Dr. Ahmad al-Malat writes an approximately 2,500-word article on page 5, discussing in detail the veil issue and the UN International Conference on Population and Development. Addressing Muslim ulema and al-Azhar men toward the end of his lengthy article, he says: "Gather in a general conference of Muslim ulema, not in a conference organized, financed, and decided upon by the United States or other enemies of Islam."

WRITER VIEWS NATIONAL DIALOGUE DEBATES

On page 6 of AL-SHA'B's 19 July issue, Jamal As'ad writes an approximately 1,600-word article on the debate and outcome of the recently held National Dialogue Congress, criticizing the ruling National Democratic Party's [NDP] stand. He says: "I don't believe that the NDP's insistence on the Muslim Brotherhood's nonparticipation in the dialogue on the pretext that it is an illegal group is in the interest of democracy as the party claims." He asks: Is banning the Muslim Brothers from participating in the dialogue the way to eliminate them? Is the absence of the ideas of the Muslim Brotherhood and other political trends in the interest of the dialogue and Egypt?

Commenting on the Copts' participation in the dialogue and the debate over their rights, the author says these issues can only be resolved by "clearing the sectarian atmosphere and reforming the sectarian practices through the Copts' actual participation in public life and positive thinking and behavior." Thus, he notes, the Copts' rights will be secured in a natural way, not through sympathy or favor.

ARTICLE ANALYZES TERRORISM CAUSES, SOURCES

Page 6 also carries an approximately 1,300-word article by Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Fawi, who discuses the reasons and sources of terrorism. Noting that the issue is "difficult and complex," he says that those who commit acts of terrorism are prompted by certain reasons connected with religious, political, and social issues.

Speaking from the religious point of view, the author says the most important reasons that provoked these people is the "loss of the state's Islamic identity in most aspects and activities." He adds: "When we talk about losing the Islamic identity, we are dealing with a very, very grave and very, very serious issue."

He says that applying the Islamic shari'ah in various dealings is a revival of Islam and that neglecting the shari'ah distorts and harms Islam. He concludes: "Whether we agree or disagree with them or even if we concur with them for the sake of argument that the shari'ah is lacking, what they are doing is not the way to apply the shari'ah, because their act is far from not only Islam's shari'ah but also from any other law."

LAWYERS URGE NEW CONSTITUTION, RELEASE OF DETAINEES

An approximately 250-word report on page 7 says Alexandria's lawyers met "last Thursday" and called for a new constitution through a "thoroughly" elected constituent assembly and by abolishing all the extraordinary laws, including emergency laws, and the state security courts. The lawyers, the report adds, asked the General Syndicate Council to announce the names of lawyers arrested for political or professional reasons and the efforts to release them.

ISLAMIC SOCIETY BOOKS, CASSETTES CONFISCATED

A 100-word report by Hamdi Taha from Aswan on page 7 says that Aswan's security forces stormed homes of members of an Islamic religious society, took the members to the state security headquarters, and confiscated religious books and cassettes. The report says they were released afterward without being charged.

SUSPECT ISLAMIC GROUP MEMBERS ARRESTED

In a 75-word report from Qina, Muhammad Bishari says that security authorities arrested a group of workers in Naja' Hammadi's aluminum complex on suspicion of belonging to Islamic groups.

PALESTINIAN LEADERS DISCUSS CHANGES TO PLO CHARTER

An approximately 260-word report by Mahmud Bakr on the same page says that unannounced meetings are being held in Cairo by "a number of Palestinian leaders" to introduce fundamental changes to the PLO Charter to put it in line with the stage following the Gaza-Jericho accord. The report adds that 'Arafat asked the Egyptian Government to help the Palestinian leaders to devise a new charter for the PLO that will remove any criticism of Israel and any words inciting armed action.

AL-GHAZALI CRITICIZES FRANCOPHONE MOVEMENT

Page 12 of AL-SHA'B runs an approximately 330-word article by Muhammad al-Ghazali, who discusses the Francophone influence on other countries. Noting that the French are very loyal to their religion, he says anyone who looks at the Francophone countries will realize that "cultural and social colonialism" is pressing ahead to make Islam lose its standing.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, al-Husayni Welcome Rabin-Husayn Meeting

'Arafat Comments

TA2507171694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has congratulated President Clinton, King Husayn, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, saying that the summit in Washington is an important step toward the attainment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. Interviewed by our correspondent Moti Amir prior to the ceremony in the White House, 'Arafat hoped that both Syria and Lebanon would soon join the peace process.

As for the impact of the negotiations with Jordan on the process with the Palestinians, 'Arafat said: We have already signed agreements, and we continue to negotiate with Israel.

Al-Husayni Comments

NC2607063494 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, a member of the Palestinian National Authority, in Jerusalem, by "anchorman" Antoine 'Awn in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] We believe that each inch of progress on any one of the tracks is in the interests of the other tracks, but on condition that the result or the comprehensive agreement and peace will be reached on every track, not on one track alone.

['Awn] The Jordanian-Israeli Agreement includes clauses that might not be in your interests. How will you, as Palestinians, deal with this agreement?

[Al-Husayni] There is first a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement and a Palestinian-Israeli one. Agreements must be respected. Therefore we do not expect the Jordanian-Israeli agreement to conflict with the agreements already drawn up.

['Awn] Israel intends to give King Husayn the right to supervise the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. What is your stance on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] The issue of Jerusalem is the issue of the land, the people, and the administration. So Israel can make no unilateral decision without the Palestinians. I don't believe that Jordan wanted such a position.

Prominent Figures React to Washington Summit

TA2507152794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Six prominent figures in the territories—Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, Ghassan al-Shak'ah from Nabulus, as well as two Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip, Sufyan Abu-Zayidah and Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq—believe the summit meeting in Washington between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn will promote the peace process. Jibril al-Rujub, chief of the Palestinian security service in Jericho, welcomed the negotiations between Israel and Jordan, but noted that the Palestinian Authority is responsible for all the politics and economics of the Palestinian people and will not allow any country whatsoever to operate in the territories without its consent.

PFLP, Others Reject Husayn-Rabin Summit Meeting

'Treacherous Deal' Seen

JN2607101194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jul 94

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has described the meeting between King Husayn and [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin and its results as a new downfall in the Arab arena and a new treacherous deal following the Oslo-Washington deal concluded between [PLO Chairman Yasir] 'Arafat and Rabin.

The PFLP expressed its firm rejection of this meeting and its results, and stressed its determination to continue the struggle, regardless of the price, to restore all national and pan-Arab rights.

The PFLP concluded by emphasizing that no one can end the state of war and belligerency as long as the Arab nation's rights are in the hand of the enemies.

PFLP-GC Spokesman Comments

JN2507190594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Reacting to the meeting that will be held today between King Husayn and the Zionist enemy prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, under the patronage of the U.S. President in Washington, a responsible source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

Today the Zionists make another penetration to deal separately with another Arab party, Jordan, after they dealt separately in September of last year with 'Arafat in the Gaza-Jericho deal, which was signed in the same place, the White House garden.

Today, they deal separately with another Arab party under the same pretexts and justifications; the achievement of the so-called peace. Today, the individuals are much the same. The U.S. sponsor, who scored an achievement, was there, as well as the Zionists. The effort is a joint U.S.-Zionist effort, and the liquidation plan is a joint U.S.-Zionist plan right from the very beginning. It is now finding a positive response from another Arab party after 'Arafat.

The PFLP-GC responsible source adds: All the pretexts, under which the declaration of an official end to the state of war between Jordan and the Zionist entity is being signed and wide doors are opened for normalization, will not help project the agreement and the signing of it as a national achievement. The agreement, which will pave the way for a large-scale Zionist penetration, will not return an occupied territory or usurped rights to waters and resources. This is not the way to return rights. Territory, waters, and Jerusalem are not for sale; nor should they be subject to bargaining regardless of the pretexts that are being made to justify the bargaining.

The PFLP-GC responsible source adds: Land, waters, and Jerusalem are the rights of a nation. They should never be up for bargaining for a few million dollars, and not for all the earth's dollars. It has been established in practice that this sort of liquidationist agreement will never realize security or stability and will not bring peace. Such agreements will only bring further deterioration and open the doors wide for harsh and hard possibilities that are greater than all the fears through which the fainthearted are forced to sign the capitulationist agreements. What has happened and is happening since the signing of the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement is the best proof on this fact.

What we would like to stress is that these agreements will not annul the conflict with our Zionist enemy and that our struggle against this U.S.-Zionist enemy will continue and endure until our people's and nation's rights are realized in full.

Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

'Source' Rejects Agreement

LD2607081794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] WAFA, the Palestinian News Agency, has reported a statement by a responsible Palestinian source in which he rejected the contents of the Washington agreement signed yesterday between Jordan and Israel in connection with guarding the Islamic sites in Jerusalem. The Palestinian source considered this a violation of the peace agreement signed between the PLO and Israel.

Washington Declaration's Jerusalem Clause Criticized

'Arafat Aide Cites 'Violation'

TA2507201794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] In a communique issued in Gaza, Halib al-Salam, an aide to Yasir 'Arafat, says that the clause in the Washington Declaration concerning Jordan's status in the Muslim holy sites constitutes a violation of the agreement Israel signed with the PLO. 'Arafat's aide says that this declaration is an attempt to establish facts about a very sensitive issue to the Palestinians, which is scheduled to be decided in negotiations.

The third clause of the Washington Declaration states that Israel respects the special role of the Hashemite Kingdom in the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and that in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement Israel will give high priority to the historic Jordanian role in these holy sites.

'Source' Cites 'Severe Blow'

JN2607105294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] In a statement to our radio, Palestinian sources have said that the inclusion of Jerusalem in the White House meeting is a severe blow to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The source [as heard] said that Jerusalem is a central issue in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and that there will be no Palestinian-Israeli peace if Jerusalem is not the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

PNA's Quray' Details Economic Talks With Israelis

NC2607072294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PNA "minister of economy and trade," in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Quray'] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] First, can you brief us on what happened during the meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Economic Affairs Committee?

[Quray'] This meeting was very necessary, very important for implementing the economic agreement signed in Paris on 29 April 1994. When it comes to implementing the agreement, we might face some difficulties. This committee's task is to surmount these difficulties and find a new mechanism to supervise the day-to-day implementation of the agreement and follow it up with monthly assessments. A mechanism has been found. It consists of eight subcommittees that will operate continuously. They will deal with the issues of agriculture, labor, trade, taxes, including value added tax [VAT] and customs duties, currency and banks, tourism, insurance, and general cooperation. A steering committee will oversee these subcommittees' tasks and will follow up the implementation of the various parts of the economic agreement. I believe this agreement is an achievement. It was concluded without any problem. Another issue raised was payment due to the Palestinians from the collected fees, customs duties, VAT, and purchase tax imposed on Palestinian goods coming in through Israeli ports. They have told us that 7 million shekels have been collected since the 4 May Cairo Agreement was signed. This is roughly equal to $2 million, perhaps a little more. This sum will be transferred to us today or tomorrow. Additionally there is the VAT levied on goods brought from Israel to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. This VAT levy is part of the dues owed to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. The Israelis have not collected VAT on these goods recently. We agreed that this should be revised and we studied ways of collecting it. We also discussed the conditions and measures regulating the workers' movement, particularly Gaza workers, the harassment they face, and ways of facilitating their movement. Everyone remembers the sorry incident at the Erez crossing. The PNA faces the pressing problem of creating jobs. It is not logical to confront the PNA, in its infancy and without funds, with additional unemployed workers, when it already has an army of unemployed in the West Bank, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But you must have a plan to surmount this hurdle.

[Quray'] Certainly, but there is a difference between a long- term or medium-term plan and immediate needs. Unemployment, even in rich countries, is not solved with a magic wand or with wishes. It is surmounted by creating jobs. We now have the highest and most frightening unemployment rate anywhere. It is 54 percent.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] After reviewing the discussions of the Palestinian-Israeli Economic Affairs Committee let us move on to economic cooperation between Palestine and neighboring countries like Egypt and Jordan. Are you thinking of this issue?

[Quray'] This is one of our priorities of course. This is the first time since the occupation started in 1967 that the Palestinians have had the opportunity to establish economic ties with their Arab brothers on the basis of programs, not on the basis of slogans and expressions of sympathy. We can now translate our economic agreement with Jordan into specific plans. We must do that. We can do the same with Egypt. This is the first time we have had the chance to do that. We must turn our economic agreements with Egypt and Jordan into specific programs. The Arab world is our strategic depth. Without it we will remain prisoners of an occupation situation and nothing will have changed. From the pan-Arab, national, and other perspectives, we must establish new economic ties with the Arabs on the basis of clear and specific programs and agreements.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much. You are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Quray'] Thank you.

Police Chief on Weapons Collection, Police Salaries

NC2607093394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 26 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Police Chief Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jibali has praised Egypt's assistance in training the Palestinian police and preparing them to carry out their tasks.

In an interview with MENA, Brig. Gen. al-Jibali said that the weapons carried by the Palestinian police are for the citizens' protection and are directed against no one. He added that Israel distributed 3,000 firearms to individuals before withdrawing from Gaza so as to create a state of disorder, which failed to materialize. He said the police are now collecting these weapons with the people's cooperation.

Brig. Gen. al-Jibali said that 90 percent of the officers have bachelor of law degrees and trained at the Egyptian Police Academy. The rest, he said, were trained in Jordan and Morocco. He explained that policemen of lower ranks are given the usual training in addition to cultural courses. He declared: Three months ago we started with 22 policemen and now have 1,900 doing various police jobs.

Al-Jibali pointed out that the police infrastructure will be ready in six months and the force will be ready to deploy in the West Bank towns. He said the PNA has 7,000 men and the aim is to reach a total of 9,000 policemen according to the Cairo agreement.

The Palestinian official said there is no problem with paying police salaries, denying rumors that these salaries have been reduced. He explained that the high salaries the police received at the beginning were really a bonus from president 'Arafat and their salaries have now been fixed. He added that they received their June salaries, which are suitable for their needs and the general economic situation in the Gaza Strip. He said the police must not become a privileged group.

Israeli Workers Shot at in Gaza; No Injuries

TA2507191794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Terrorists opened fire with automatic weapons at a group of Israeli workers building the security fence in the Gaza Strip, east of the village of Bayt Hanun. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that several bullets hit an Israeli car parked at the site. The security forces were summoned to the scene of the incident abutting the Green Line. A complaint was lodged with the Palestinian police force.

'Abd-al-Rahim on PNA Meetings, Budget Deficits

JN2507120094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 19

[Report by Samir Sa'd al-Din]

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister for Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Affairs, has stated that the PNA's plenary session in Gaza on 21 July under Yasir 'Arafat discussed the issue of Jerusalem, negotiations with Israel, and a report on Christopher's Gaza visit. He said that the PNA also discussed the commitments of the donor countries to the authority, and the fact that only $5 million in aid has been received so far. He said all budgets show a deficit, there is a deficit in the implementation of programs, and the total deficit for all budgets reaches $20 million a month.

'Abd-al-Rahim said contacts are under way to have the Israeli side organize the entrance of workers through the Erez checkpoint. The discussion revolves around the establishment of 24 crossing posts on this checkpoint to facilitate the passage of workers and avoid the bottlenecks which currently occur.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the Israeli side must increase job opportunities for these workers because, over the past 27 years, Israel has transformed the strip into a labor depot. 'Abd-al-Rahim said: From our side, we took the appropriate measures to ensure that only those workers who have a permit will reach the Erez checkpoint. He added: The PNA will remain in open session to settle all items listed on its agenda.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that Palestinian and Arab businessmen and investors are invited to establish ventures on Palestinian territory to enhance the Palestinian entity and participate in the new stage the Palestinian people pass through because, as he said, we aspire to have broad and unrestricted relations with our Arab environment.

'Abd-al-Rahim said: Following the conclusion of the agreement with Jordan, we are working to implement the practical program contained in this agreement which is based on the special relations which exist between our Palestinian and Jordanian people.

On Jordanian-Israeli talks, 'Abd-al-Rahim said that these talks serve the peace process Arabs accepted at the Madrid conference and which should be a comprehensive process. He added: Jordan is fully entitled to regain its occupied land and usurped water.

'Abd-al-Rahim said he expects Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to take place in the forthcoming stage to cover all political, economic, and social fields. He added that the PNA is in the process of concluding special agreements with Jordan on 10 topics of mutual interest.

On the other hand, President 'Arafat appointed Khalid Mismar, the director of the Palestinian Information Office in Amman, as the official spokesman for the Palestinian National Security Forces. He was also appointed political deputy commissioner general of these forces, and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He has taken up offices at the headquarters of the commander of these forces, Major General Nasr Yusuf.

AL-QUDS Views Christopher Visit to Gaza

TA2507113194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 13

[Editorial: "An Important Development That Must Be Followed by Other Steps]

[Text] Yesterday's meeting in the Gaza Strip between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which comes within the framework of the current intensive efforts to promote the peace process on more than one negotiating track, is of special significance. Christopher's is the first official high-level visit by a foreign official to the national self-authority area in the Gaza Strip and the first meeting with the Palestinian president on Palestinian territory since the establishment of the National Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Aside from the fact that the most prominent result of this meeting was the United States' pledge to urge donor countries to hasten in providing the promised aid to the Palestinians—a pledge that responds to the Palestinian demand for this aid to arrive in order to begin construction in various spheres—the visit itself constitutes U.S. acknowledgment of the Palestinians as a basic component of the peace equation in the region. In addition, the visit is a reaffirmation of the Palestinian National Authority's right to manage its relations with various foreign countries as it sees fit. The official ceremonies with which the U.S. Secretary of State was received also hold political symbolism for the newborn Palestinian national entity.

Naturally, the Palestinian self-authority's problems are not limited only to the delay in the arrival of aid from the donor countries—a delay that has had a negative impact, epitomized by the wait in implementing many vital projects in various spheres. This, in turn, has amplified the feelings of frustration and skepticism regarding the commitment by the international community, especially the donor countries, to meet their obligations and help in building what has been destroyed by many years of occupation.

The United States is aware that in order to progress on the Palestinian track, there must be a solution to various pending problems from the first stage, foremost of which is the issue of Palestinian prisoners, the crossings, the size of Jericho, and a halt to Israeli violations of the agreement, particularly with regard to the issue of Jerusalem and the policy on Palestinian workers. The United States is also aware that the shift to the second stage, over which negotiations have started, is facing many obstacles as Israel attempts to bargain over the powers that must be handed over to the Palestinians acording to the agreement and appears to be trying to obstruct the implementation of the agreement according to the agreed timetable.

Thus, while the U.S. promise to speed up the arrival of aid to the Palestinian Authority represents a positive development, what is also essential for progress on the Palestinian track is for the United States, the major sponsor of the peace process, to remove the Israeli obstacles which are blocking this progress and to translate the honest broker's role into tangible steps on the ground and not make do with promises and pledges.

'Arafat: Jerusalem Arabs To Vote in Elections

JN2507111994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has invited the Palestinian opposition to participate in the National Authority which belongs to the entire people. President 'Arafat added that talks continue with the Israeli side in Cairo on the transfer of power in other occupied Palestinian areas. He said that legislative elections will be held in next three months and will be preceded by a redeployment of the Israeli forces of occupation.

President 'Arafat said that the Jerusalem inhabitants will participate in these elections in terms of voting, nominating, and electing. Concerning democracy, President 'Arafat said that he views democracy as the basis of power and the cornerstone of stability.

Jordan's Gulf Bank To Open Branch in Nabulus

TA2507115094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] A new Jordanian bank—the Jordan Gulf Bank—will open its first branch in Nabulus this week.

In a few weeks, additional branches will open in Ramallah, Hebron, and Tulkarm. Yesterday, the bank's representatives received their operating license from Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, the head of the Civil Administration. The ceremony was also attended by Ze'ev Abeles, the supervisor of banks, and Zuhayr 'Awartani, the chairman of the bank's board of directors in the territories.

'First Bank' To Be Set Up in Gaza Since Self-Rule

LD2507174994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian businessman Sa'id Haddad has announced that, in association with Palestinian and Arab businessmen, he will set up the first bank in the Gaza Strip since the Palestinian authority took over in the strip following the withdrawal of Israeli forces more than two months ago.

Sa'id Haddad has said that he will set up the bank in association with Palestinian, Syrian [as heard], Jordanian, and Saudi businessmen.

Attempts are being made to reopen banks which were closed during the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip in 1967. A decision has also been reached to reopen a Jordan and Gulf Bank branch in Nablus in the West Bank which will be the second Jordanian bank to resume activities in the West Bank since the conclusion of an agreement on banks between Jordan and Israel last year.

Algeria

Opposition Splits Over Extent of Violence

MM2207154594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Split in Ranks of Algerian Salvation Front"]

[Excerpt] Paris—[passage omitted] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned of a split in the ranks of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] and the ranks of the armed organizations close to it, and of a restructuring process of its political and military organizations in progress over the past two days. According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, Abdelrazzak Rijam, former FIS speaker inside Algeria, and Mohamed Saeed, leader of the "Algerianization" trend and a former FIS spokesman before the elections, have broken away from FIS and joined the Armed Islamic Group led by Quassmi Elsherif, known as Bouabdallah Ahmed. Saeed Makhloufi, the most prominent leader of the Armed Islamic Movement, has joined the Armed Islamic Group along with the "forces" loyal to him, whereas Abdelkader Shbouti, known as the general, and Ezzeddine Baah remained loyal to the FIS leadership and political line.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, the armed organizations in Algeria's 16 eastern governorates have been united under a new unified command following the FIS leadership line. It seems that western Algeria's governorates will join them in the same framework, whereas the central region's governorates, namely Algiers, Blida, Bouira, Boumerdas, Tebessa, and Medea, are forming a bloc rallying behind the Armed Islamic Group. The FIS supporters are expected to state their position and political and organizational differences with that group within hours.

The main point of difference between the two organizations is that the Armed Islamic Group stresses armed action as the only way and argues that its war should be an all-out war against the regime, its institutions, and its bases; whereas the FIS supporters stress that armed action should be against the Army, the security authorities, and the regime's leadership, excluding civilians who do not bear major or direct responsibility. Whereas the Armed Group calls for the dissolution of the FIS and for the latter's total merger with the Armed Group, the FIS supporters insist that the FIS must remain and must maintain its loyalty to its imprisoned leaders.

It is worth noting that the Armed Islamic Group, known for its intransigence and rejection of the principle of political dialogue with the regime and other political forces, is responsible for many bloody and sensational operations and lacks thoughtful political figures and leadership. That is why the fact that such figures as Mohamed Saeed and Abdelrazzak Rijam have joined it will give it a political dimension it did not have before. It seems that Mohamed Saeed has become the group's political official in charge. Accordingly the split has extended to the FIS leaderships abroad. Anouar Haddam, who lives in the United States, has now joined the Armed Group despite the fact that he had made several statements condemning violence against foreigners and giving the impression that he was calling for political dialogue. Rabeh Kebir has remained with FIS. It should be noted that the Armed Islamic Group includes a large number of "Afghans" trained in Afghanistan, and most of their members are young people from the capital and its suburbs, their age ranging from 18 to 25 years. It is too early to predict how the new split could affect the FIS' political influence and the military effectiveness of the Islamic Salvation Army, which includes all factions of the Armed Islamic Movement.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a statement signed by Hocine Abdelatif, the "amir of al-'Ahd [pledge] Battalion," on the killing of foreigners, stressing that the Islamic Salvation Army has so far not killed any foreigners in Algeria and that "there are clear Shari'ah controls meaning that there is no room for attacking a foreigner unless he is clearly hostile to the mujahidin and unless he himself openly says so. But there will be no mercy for any foreigner who comes to Algeria within the framework of military cooperation with the regime or to instruct the regime's forces on how to fight the mujahidin." The statement added: "Some brothers have chosen their path and opted to kill many foreigners, knowing that God will reward them if they are right and punish them severely if they are wrong; but they have no right to dictate that we should support their way of treating foreigners and substitute what is wrong for what is right."

Soldiers Killed; FIS Condemns 'Split' Attempts

MM2507141294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "24 Military Men Killed in Algeria; Salvation Front Attacks Its 'Repudiators'"]

[Excerpts] London—The security situation in Algeria has witnessed further deterioration over the past hours, resulting in the killing of military men by gunmen. [passage omitted]

Algerian sources contacted by AL-HAYAH from London have said that 24 military men were killed in the al-Qall [as transliterated] area, east of Algiers (near Constantine). The sources pointed out that the military men were practicing shooting when armed groups attacked them, killing them and seizing their weapons. Military units are combing the area of the incident and pursuing the gunmen.

The sources cited other operations in which military personnel have been killed in more than one area. They said that an official in the "cipher" section at the Interior Ministry was assassinated and that the assassins escaped. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] circles yesterday criticized attempts to split the Front and incorporate it into the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. The "AL-TABSIRAH" publication, which is close to the Front, said that "a group of mujahidin" (Islamic fundamentalists close to the GIA) held a seminar in Spain in April, in which they called for "repudiating the FIS leaders' ideology." The publication described the call as "a discordant note." It said that cassette tapes were distributed after the seminar, promoting views to the effect that FIS leaders Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj "will have no leading role even after their release from prison."

The publication spoke about "signs of a conspiracy being hatched for Muslims in Algeria by various quarters with good or bad intentions, hence a tragedy along the lines of Afghanistan."

It cited the announcement made "about the unification of the FIS and the GIA under the slogan: Unity over the prophet's program." It said that this announcement "was actually nothing but a blackmail process polished and marketed with shining names that have nothing to do with reality." It wondered: "Why was the FIS' name and place in the hearts of Muslims abolished? Why were the efforts of Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj disregarded with one stroke of a pen and without any consideration for their sacrifices, knowledge, and experience? Can a crucial issue like this be settled without referring to the legitimate shura principle and the field commanders, especially as there are serious endeavors to close ranks and unite the forces under the Islamic Salvation Army?" [passage omitted]

GIA To Announce 'Provisional Government'

MM2507155294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Islamic Group To Announce 'Provisional Orthodox Caliphate' Government"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—The Armed Islamic Group [GIA] in Algeria has announced that its shura council will consider in an emergency session the announcement of "a provisional orthodox caliphate government."

It has been announced in the Algerian capital that the Group has officially made an offer to the government of President Liamine Zeroual to halt its operations against westerners and stop killing them in return for the release of the Group's former amir, Abdelhak Layada.

A statement issued by the GIA, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has obtained, said that "in order to organize the nation's politics and arrange for the establishment of an Islamic caliphate based on the prophet's program and the blessed jihad," the Group announces the following:

"First, among the most important issues over which the GIA will consult the shura council in its upcoming emergency session is the issue of a provisional orthodox caliphate government.

"Second, the headquarters of the provisional orthodox caliphate government will be inside the country, that is on the land of the jihad and the territory of martyrdom, to monitor conditions and protect Islam from those apostate rulers."

The statement promised to announce this move when it happens. It said that "anything new in this endeavor will be announced, God willing."

The group issued a separate statement in which it threatened to punished anyone taking part in any swimming involving women and men. The statement said, "...so the GIA is strongly repudiating these vices and implementing the ruling of God and his messenger against those who commit them. The following has been decided:

"1. To prevent family and public camps.
"2. To prevent women from going to beaches and men from exposing their bodies.
"3. To prevent all tourist establishments and travel agencies from organizing mixed trips.
"With this statement and warning the GIA has informed the ignorant and warned the learned."

In a third statement the group sent a warning to the tax and customs departments, saying: "On this basis, the GIA issues its order to all tax and customs employees to give up their posts, through which they are supporting the tyrants, namely by supplying them with money which is taken unjustly and repressively from its owners." The statement added in threatening language: "Anyone who does not respond to this, his punishment will be like that of the tyrants." [passage omitted]

Movement for Democracy Committed to Dialogue

LD2307224894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] The Movement for Democracy in Algeria has affirmed its commitment to dialogue without any exclusion, and to national reconciliation as a sole and sound course for taking the country out of its crisis.

In a statement published today, the movement called for the holding of a meeting entrusted with all powers between the authorities, active political forces, and national figures to administer the dialogue and make it successful. The movement also called for making decisions to soften the atmosphere, such as the closure of detention camps and the release of all political detainees.

Finance Minister on Trade, Dinar Issues

LD2507205194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Following agreement with the IMF, Algeria enters the stage of tangible measures—the cost of imports, liberalizing foreign trade, and full convertibility of the dinar. These are issues which Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour discussed. More details are reported by Hakima Alouan:

[Hakima] Algeria will allocate more than $10 billion to imports next year, compared with $7.8 billion in 1993. This came in a statement by Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour, which was published today in LIBERTE.

On foreign trade, the minister said exports will be liberalized with the exception of some prohibited goods such as those manufactured in Algeria or those considered secondary, like beauty products and luxury fruits. This will be valid until December. He clarified that the task of assessing the realistic prices of imported goods will be assigned to banks. Although banks do not have sufficient capability for such a process, a monitoring process will be set up in the future. The minister said that those in question will hold talks with a number of competent institutions to fix the real value of imports. He stressed that Algeria's will to liberalize trade must not be used to smuggle capital.

The minister also clarified that full convertibility of the dinar cannot be achieved at present. He stressed that such convertibility is subject to the state of the national economy and not to a government decision. However, the process of conversion for trade purposes or making use of hard currency to carry out transactions will be applied later on.

Delivery of Natural Gas to Turkey To Begin

LD2507225594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] It has been learned from the Sonatrach oil and gas company that within the next few days Turkey will be provided with the first batch of Algerian natural liquified gas in line with a 1988 agreement between the two countries. Under that agreement, Sonatrach will provide the Turkish company Botas with about 2 billion cubic meters of liquified gas a year for 20 years, starting this year.

Egypt

Musa on Government's Peace Efforts, Syrian Track

NC2507161594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—In a statement to journalists today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that Jordan's recovery of its territory is an issue we and every Arab support. He added that the particulars of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and any future agreements are unknown to us. But we support the general course for reaching an agreement by which Jordan will recover its rights to its territory, water, and so forth.

Regarding the effect of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Foreign Minister Musa said that the Syrian-Israeli track is important and fundamental. As we said before, it governs the comprehensive peace process. He emphasized that without progress in the Syrian-Israeli track and in the Lebanese-Israeli track, no comprehensive peace can be achieved. He expressed the hope that progress will be made in the Syrian track during the coming weeks in light of the efforts that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made during his recent tour and his decision to return to the area at the beginning of August.

Musa said that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus yesterday and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as the talks held by the Egyptian and Syrian delegations, all support Syria's position in the negotiations with Israel and its demand for Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will catch up with the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks so it will be possible to recover the land and achieve an honorable peace based on the principle of withdrawal from the territory occupied in 1967, including Palestinian territory. He also expressed the hope that the pending problems regarding Jerusalem, refugees, and settlements will also be resolved.

Musa said that there is movement in the Syrian track, which implies that proposals are being considered based on the principle of land for peace. This is from the standpoint of general principles, but there are many details to be decided on withdrawal, the concept of peace, security arrangements, timetables, and so forth. He said that no agreement has yet been reached on these issues.

Musa emphasized the importance of maintaining the principle of land for peace and said that this principle was the basis of the Madrid Conference on peace in the Middle East.

He added that Egypt is still ready—as President Mubarak said in Damascus yesterday—to assist and cooperate in any way, particularly with the Syrian brothers. We feel that there is a meeting of minds between the two countries, he said.

The foreign minister explained that yesterday President Mubarak discussed with President al-Asad the issue of Israeli withdrawal and how to achieve it. He noted that this is Syria's affair, and Egypt supports whatever the Syrian brothers decide on within the framework of the Madrid Conference agreement and principles and UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Regarding Egyptian efforts, the foreign minister said that Egypt will continue its contacts with Israeli, U.S., and Arab authorities. Egypt has a significant role to play. Egypt is maintaining continuous contacts with Israel to facilitate the negotiating process on the return of the occupied territories and comprehensive peace. Musa affirmed that Egyptian diplomacy will continue to support the Arab negotiating process.

Commenting on the Western media's assertion that Egypt's role in the peace process is no less important than the U.S. one, 'Amr Musa said: The Egyptian role is in fact no less important than that of the United States. The extent of this role was apparent in the Palestinian-Israeli track. We will continue to play this role because what has been achieved in this track was merely a first step.

The foreign minister went on to say: Peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis cannot be said to have been established until the process reaches the stage where the Palestinians exercise their right of self-determination. He stressed that this is the object of Egyptian diplomacy.

Regarding Egypt's position on Jerusalem, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: The issue of Jerusalem is very complicated. The important point is that this issue has been raised and is now an subject of negotiation. He added: The general principle is that the Arab side is not bound by any unilateral measure. He went on to say: We do not recognize the Israeli measures. He stressed that Jerusalem is the subject of negotiations, as agreed on by the Palestinians and Israelis, and this is Egypt's position for which it has worked and will always continue to work. He added: I will not comment now on any statements about Jerusalem because the time will come to talk about Jerusalem, in accordance with the timetable of the peace process.

The foreign minister said that Egypt's position on Jerusalem will be set out at the proper time.

Says Jerusalem Negotiable, Concerns All

NC2607121294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1126 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has asserted that Jerusalem's final status is negotiable and cannot be viewed from one angle because it concerns more than one country or government.

Musa, who was speaking after a meeting today with Macedonian [former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM] Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski, added that all parties are concerned with the Jerusalem issue, not just Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

He pointed out that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement referred to Jerusalem as a negotiable issue. Musa said Jerusalem is important to the Palestinians and is the focus of King Husayn's attention. He declared that all this must be considered.

Musa said the premise that the city's final status is negotiable paves the way for reaching a formula that will satisfy all parties' interests. He said the opportunity to do this exists if we agree on it.

Musa remarked that recent statements Jerusalem, including Israel's declared position, the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, and the Israeli-Palestinian agreement are all factors that can be negotiated. None, he said, constitutes a final position.

Musa described the Jordanian-Israeli agreement as another step forward in a new negotiating track. He expressed hope for progress in the Syrian-Lebanese track. He stressed that progress must be made: We have made our position clear. Israel's withdrawal from the Golan must be total.

The foreign minister added: We are working in the context of land for peace.

Musa, Jordanian Envoy View Washington Summit

NC2507145894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Jordanian Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi, who said they discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the positive progress in the Jordanian-Israeli track. Al-Qadi said he briefed Foreign Minister Musa on the Jordanian position on this issue, adding that the foreign minister also explained Egypt's position supporting and backing the Jordanian position in this regard.

Al-Qadi said the foreign minister explained the outcome of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Damascus and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Jordanian ambassador added that they also discussed the expected outcome of the meeting of King Husayn with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington today.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments on Peace Talks With Israel

NC2507152294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], today arrived in Cairo from Amman for a visit of several days.

In his arrival statement, Qaddumi stated that he will meet with officials to discuss coordination and cooperation, strengthen ties with Egypt, and review regional events to get an idea of future developments.

He praised President Husni Mubarak's policy, which he described as "unique and wise." He said he wants to visit Egypt because it is the main player in managing the affairs of the Arab region, particularly as the Palestinian people are now going through a new phase and need Egypt's support.

On his talks in Amman, Qaddumi said he met King Husayn and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and discussed Palestinian-Jordanian coordination.

Regarding reports that Israel wants to undermine relations between Palestine and Jordan, the PNA foreign minister said: I do not believe the Israelis have any credibility, which raises questions and creates doubts about Israel's commitment to implementing all its pledges. He added: Every day Israeli actions prove that Israel does not respect its pledges but tries to exert pressure to achieve its political aims. We categorically reject this. He also said he does not trust Israel's behavior when it comes to the international resolutions that it continues to disregard.

Faruq Qaddumi said: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to impose changes before their time, such as the amendment to the Palestinian Charter. This issue will not be discussed at any Palestine National Council meeting before Israel withdraws completely from Palestinian territory and a comprehensive peace agreement is signed between Israel and the Arab countries. He added that Rabin should not wear himself out with all the calls he is making.

Refuses to Comment on Jordanian Agreement

NC2507193994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting was attended by Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League.

Before going to the meeting Qaddumi refused to comment on the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement, saying: No comment. This is a Jordanian affair.

Discusses Aid, Jerusalem Issue

NC2507214494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2124 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Following his meeting tonight with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, stated that they reviewed developments in the Palestinian-Israeli track.

He said that he and Musa also discussed relations between Egypt and the PLO and how to strengthen them in order to help create a better future and support joint Arab action that will ensure success in all tracks.

On foreign aid to the Palestinian National Authority, Qaddumi said: We need this aid, and every possible effort must be made to get it to the Palestinians inside the Palestinian territories so that they can build a government and an infrastructure.

Qaddumi praised the Egyptian role in the peace process and expressed gratitude to President Husni Mubarak for his deep interest in giving impetus to the negotiations in all the Arab tracks.

On Jerusalem, Qaddumi said: This issue cannot be conceded, and we should continue to raise it. The U.S. State Department sent us a message saying that it had sent a report to the U.S. Congress clearly stating that East Jerusalem is an occupied territory. He added: Jerusalem is on Palestinian territory and we are coordinating with our Jordanian brothers to avoid problems.

Qaddumi said that he will meet tomorrow with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and will discuss a number of Arab issues with him.

Police Round Up Suspected Muslim 'Militants'

NC2507211394 Paris AFP in English 1820 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (AFP)—Egyptian police rounded up suspected Muslim militants south of Cairo who were allegedly plotting to kill top policemen, security sources said Monday [25 July].

Police officers raided the suspects' hideouts in Hulwan, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Cairo, where they found "great quantities" of weapons and explosives, the sources said.

Details of the arrests, including the number of suspects and their alleged crimes, are to be announced in the next few days by interior ministry officials, the sources said.

Police officers have increased raids against Moslem militants in a bid to counter the violent militant campaign to topple Egypt's secular government, launched in March 1992.

Nearly 400 people have died in the violence.

Columnist Asks When Real 'Democracy' Will Be Applied

NC2607105594 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 3

["Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] A young engineer with a masters degree in engineering from a U.S. university asked me once: Could you explain the general state of deterioration we are living in? We live in a strange state of indifference, depression, frustration, and pessimism. How long will this continue? How long will it grip us?

We are educated Egyptian youths. We do not aspire to much. All we want is to express and contribute our opinion in the affairs of our country. We would like to have some official hear our opinion, discuss our ideas, and answer our questions about everything that is published and said. We want to have our complaints dealt with quickly and our questions answered by officials. We want to have a good and educated example with a good reputation to emulate. We would like to have a distinguished administrative and leading personality. We want to see the principle of punishment and reward applied to everyone without exception. We aspire to have the principle of equal opportunity applied to all so that the sons of the upper classes do not reap all the benefits. We want to see everyone getting their fair share.

Myself and many other youths often wonder: When will a minister in Egypt resign? We would like to see one minister submit his resignation in Egypt as did Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, God bless his soul, during al-Sadat's days, to protest a stance of which he did not approve.

We wonder: When will it be the right of the People's Assembly, which is supposed to be elected by the people and is supposed to represent the people, to withdraw confidence from the government? When will the number of ministers decrease by half? When will the term of a minister be decreased to four years so that new blood can be introduced, thinking can be modernized, and the rigidity that has gripped bureaucratic thinking in Egypt be loosened? When will a president's period in office be limited to two terms only? When will we have a vice president?

We also wonder when the prime minister will start presenting a monthly report to the citizens for which he will be held accountable at the end of the month. Why does he not open his door one day a week, or at least once a month, to meet citizens without appointment or mediation to hear their complaints and solve their problems? When will the government respect citizens in Egypt and carry out a real referendum, even if it is haphazard, before issuing laws that affect people's lives, such as tax laws? When will streets and squares stop being closed off before citizens for ranking officials to pass through?

We also wonder: When will officials spare us having to watch daily televised interviews with them, reports on their activities in every newscast, news summaries, and 24-hour events; these are programs nobody watches in the first place. It is enough to air them once.

The young engineer asked me: Do you have the answer to these questions?

I answered: The day real democracy is established in our country, you or other youths will not need to ask such questions.

Libya

JANA Comments on Israeli Overflight Permits

LD2507123294 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] An Israeli Ministry of Transport spokesman announced today that Jordan has agreed to allow Israeli civilian aircraft to use its airspace for all its flights. The same spokesman said that the U.S. Administration will ask Saudi Arabia to enable the Israeli airlines to use Saudi airspace.

JANA's Arab affairs' editor commented upon this by saying: At a time when all the Arab countries are preventing the Great Jamahiriyah's airliners from using their airspace, and their own from entering Libya, they allow Israeli aviation to use their airspace.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Bosnian Foreign Minister

LD2507184794 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, June 25, JANA—The leader of the revolution received today Irfan Ljubljankic the foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina who delivered him a message from the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

The message contained the thanks of the Bosnian president for the leader of the revolution and the Great Jamahiriyah for the humanitarian aid offered to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the welcoming of children of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Great Jamahiriyah land.

The message also carried the thanks of the Bosnian president for the initiative of the leader of the revolution and the efforts he exerts towards finding a peaceful settlement for the conflict in the area. The Bosnian president confirmed his readiness to respond to the proposal of the Great Jamahiriyah within the initiative of the leader of the revolution.

The Bosnian leader briefed the leader of the revolution on the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Al-Qadhdhafi Talks With President al-Asad

LD2507144994 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [Jul] 25, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—A telephone conversation took place between the leader of the revolution and President Hafiz al-Asad of the Arab Republic of Syria.

Al-Qadhdhafi Converses With Chad's Deby

LD2607085094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jul (JANA)—Chadian President Idriss Deby had a phone conversation with the leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi].

Sudan

Spokesman: Armed Forces Committed to Cease-Fire

EA2507162494 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jul (SUNA)—The Armed Forces' spokesman, Brigadier Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, has affirmed commitment of the Armed Forces to the cease-fire in the south which wasd declared as of Saturday night [23 July] in accordance with a statement issued by the presidency of the Republic.

Commenting on the allegations circulated by John Garang's faction of the outlaws' movement Sudanese People's Liberation Army on the government cease-fire declaration, Brig. Bashir on Sunday stressed that these allegations provide indicators that the movement remained sticking to its inclination to utilize any cease-fire adopted by the government by training its elements or supplying them with arms and ammunitions. He went on to say, in a press statement to SUNA, that the previous experience proved that the outlaws' movement remained violating any cease-fire in spite of the Armed Forces' adherence to it. He asserted that by circulating such false allegations the outlaws movement intends to attract sympathy and support of others, especially those who had cut their support to it.

Acceptance of the movement's United Faction to the government unilateral cease-fire declaration refuted the declaration made earlier by the two factions that they were united again and showed that they are still wide apart. The Armed Forces spokesman pointed to the fighting which is now raging in the south between the outlaws movement factions, saying that the conflict with the movement had turned into bloody tribal and ethnic fighting.

Minister, U.S. Envoy Review IGADD Talks, Cease-Fire

EA2407132694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister at the Federal Rule Office and the official spokesman of the government's delegation in the Nairobi peace negotiations, has met, at the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi, the U.S. president's envoy, Melissa Wells, who arrived in the Kenyan capital [date not given].

The meeting reviewed the issues discussed at the ministerial committee sessions of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states with the negotiating sides so far. The American envoy confirmed Washington's support for the IGADD initiative to establish peace in Sudan. The meeting discussed the issue of relief and of the unilateral cease-fire declared by the government. It is worth reminding that the American State Department issued a statement in which it welcomed the government's cease-fire declaration. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Calls for International Forces in Rwanda

LD2307202594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jul 94

["Text" of appeal by President Ben Ali in his capacity as president of the Organization of African Unity to the Rwandan people and the international community; place and date not given]

[Text] The tragedy Rwanda is experiencing today in the aftermath of the painful events in this brotherly African country is a humanitarian disaster such as is rarely witnessed by mankind. What adds to the gravity of this tragedy is the increasing number of victims, refugees, and the displaced, and the spread of famine and epidemics on a large scale. This situation is a source of deep worry and concern which makes an appeal to the conscience of humanity..

In these critical moments, I appeal to all sections of the brotherly Rwandan people to work towards overcoming this ordeal within an atmosphere of solidarity and tolerance in order to achieve national reconciliation.

I am also appealing urgently to the whole of the international community including states, international, regional, and humanitarian organizations, within the framework of solidarity between members of the international community, to provide urgent aid and assistance to save the Rwandan people and contribute to the alleviation of the tragedy the Rwandan people are experiencing. There is no doubt that a factor that would help achieve this end is the international community providing the necessary resources and means to send and deploy international peacekeeping troops as soon as possible in order to bring about security and conciliation in this brotherly country.

Kuwait

Security Defense Deal With China Expected

LD2307115294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has announced that he is expecting a security defense deal, similar to those signed with the four big powers, to be signed with China by the end of this year.

He added that he will be heading for Paris next month for talks with his French counterpart before visiting London in September to attend the military air show.

In his first interview since taking the defense portfolio three months ago, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud told the daily AL-QABAS that the process of re-equipping the Kuwait armed forces is progressing in step with the original plan and with cooperation with friendly allies.

He added: "There are serious and sincere efforts to rebuild as soon as possible, in accordance with a comprehensive plan, a highly efficient army, given the destruction inflicted on it during the Iraqi occupation." He added that absolute priority is being given to this matter despite the economic situation in the country in the aftermath of the occupation. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud said the first stage in the building of the fourth wall, which includes the digging of a trench and the erection of a fence along Kuwait's border with Iraq, has been completed. The second stage is now under way, and this will include an asphalted corridor along the northwestern borders with Iraq, he added.

The third stage will include the setting up of border check points to protect the borders, and the forth and last stage will include the installation of sophisticated equipment to monitor possible infiltration from the Iraqi side. [passage omitted]

Oman

Yemen's 'Abd-al-Ghani Arrives for Talks

JN2307142894 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Yemeni Presidential Council member, and his delegation arrived in the country today on a visit to the sultanate that will last for several days.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency on arrival, his excellency said he is carrying a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from his brother His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Yemeni Presidential Council chairman.

He said the visit will be an opportunity to convey the congratulations of his excellency the president and the Presidential Council members to his majesty the sultan on the occasion of the 23 July anniversary.

He said he will discuss with his majesty the sultan and the Omani officials issues that concern the two countries in the interest of the two brotherly peoples.

His excellency was received on arrival by His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, and the Yemeni charge d'affaires to the sultanate.

Talks Focus on Relations

JN2407165394 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] An official round of talks was held today at the Qasr al-Bustan Hotel between the Omani side headed by Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and the Yemeni side headed by Presidential Council member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani.

The talks focused on bilateral relations and the means of promoting them in all areas to foster affection, kinship, and good neighborly relations between the two countries in the common interest of the two fraternal peoples. Both sides were in agreement on all the issues and topics of mutual interest.

During this round of talks, the Omani side reiterated the concern of the Omani Government, under His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, for security and stability in the Republic of Yemen, for the restoration of cohesion among all sectors of the fraternal Yemeni people, and also for promoting the national unity of the Yemeni people.

The Yemeni delegation was honored yesterday by a meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus. During the meeting, the Yemeni delegation relayed to his majesty the sultan a written message from His Excellency Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, underscoring the importance of promoting and enhancing Omani-Yemeni ties.

The Yemeni delegation listened to the valuable remarks his majesty made regarding Oman's firm position toward Yemen. In these remarks, his majesty the sultan stressed the need to promote ties between the two fraternal states in all areas.

For its part, the Yemeni delegation expressed its satisfaction with and appreciation for the aid extended by the Sultanate of Oman, particularly during the ordeal experienced by the Republic of Yemen.

The Yemeni side underlined the provisions enshrined in the statement issued by the Presidential Council, which outlined the basic features of the upcoming phase, particularly the general amnesty issued to cope with the developments brought about by the war.

The talks were attended for Oman by General 'Ali Bin-Majid al-Ma'mari, minister of palace affairs and director of the office of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces; Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah; and Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

On the Yemeni side, the talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi; Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, minister of social security and social affairs; as well as 'Abdallah al-Barr and 'Ali Mansur Rashid, advisers to the Presidential Council.

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's 'Rush' To Sign Accord With Israel Criticized

JN2507201294 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Tracks of the Israeli Logic!!"]

[Text] Those working for a peace plan might have scored important as well as unimportant points, but what is also important is that all the Arab parties that have problems with Israel should feel they are doing something genuine for the sake of a true peace. This feeling cannot exist without the help of Washington, the sponsor of peace in the region, which expressed readiness to play the full partner role. However, what we see is that Israel is the only party which reaps the fruits of the U.S. efforts in the Middle East, while all parties should share in the sweet fruits of peace. Action on the Palestinian track, which has given Israel many cards and privileges, has stopped now the time has come for the Palestinians to reap the fruits of the talks along this track. The reason is that Israel is still playing its same old role, which should have stopped after the lengthy open and secret talks and continuous meetings between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

We can understand the pressures that were put on the Palestinians to force them to accept any settlement. We can also understand the circumstances which forced the PLO to accept any solution. However, we cannot justify Jordan's undue eagerness and rush to sign protocols with Israel and to move the negotiations to the Arab land, especially since issues on the Jordanian track were completely settled even before talks began on it, taking into consideration that talks were held on this track on tourism and transportation, unless the objective is to bring pressure to bear on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. These two tracks are not as complicated as the Palestinian track. Quick and immediate solutions could have been reached on these two tracks, similar to what happened on the Jordanian track, had Washington tried to curb the Israeli arrogance. Getting everything does not mean that Israel will be an obedient servant or a strong future ally for the U.S. policy in the region. More likely, it will create future problems for Washington. Therefore, the U.S. pressure on Tel Aviv will help a great deal in making Israel adopting policies that are less reckless and which show more respect for the logic of neighborliness and for the U.S. policy itself.

The Lebanese and Syrian tracks cannot tolerate the Israeli misinterpretation, postponement, or procrastination. This is because Israel occupies Lebanese and Syrian territories only as a result of military action. In other words, neither the Golan, nor southern Lebanon are Jewish holy places or a promised land. Based on this, the U.S. secretary of state's hopes of a lasting peace in the Middle East could possibly be fulfilled if Washington applies a little pressure on Tel Aviv, especially since spoiling Israel will never lead to peace that one can be proud of, or to a lasting peace, even if Israel gets tens of signatures, documents, and agreements. This is because peace which cannot express the minimum level of its parties' convictions will not be saved from the developments of history.

If arbitrary agreements are reached on the tracks of the direct negotiations, then this will reflect negatively on the multilateral talks, which are not less important than the direct talks. Signing touristic agreements between Jordan and Israel is not a solution to all the region's problems. The most important problem thus far is that the reckless Israeli ambitions make Israel interpret all stands, agreements, commitments, and the negotiations tracks in accordance with a special Israeli logic and a special Israeli concept which differ from the language of others. It seems that this Israeli logic will conflict with the U.S. interests themselves in the future, particularly when circumstances change and when new circumstances might be created as a result of a U.S.-Israeli confrontation in the future. This is especially true if we take into consideration that Israel is being inflated psychologically and militarily in the same way Saddam Husayn was inflated and began to think of confronting the superpowers. The best proof of this is that Israel is acting arrogantly regarding agreements with the Palestinians, and that it has not respected even the U.S. participation in drafting these agreements.

United Arab Emirates

Yemen's 'Abd-al-Ghani Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2507172794 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in the country this morning.

His Excellency Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Foreign Ministry and Protocol Department officials, and the Yemeni ambassador were present at the airport to welcome him.

In a statement to the Emirates News Agency, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani said he has a letter for United Arab Emirates President His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from his brother Hhis Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in service of the two countries and people. He added that the letter also reviews bilateral relations, and the developments in the regional, Arab, and international arena.

Asked about the results of his talks in the Sultanate of Oman, the Yemeni Presidential Council member said that the talks produced good results, and that Yemeni-Omani relations and ways to promote them were reviewed, as well developments in the Arab and international arena.

Conveys Salih's Message to Zayid

JN2607104494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, last night received brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, [Yemeni] Presidential Council member, who conveyed a written message from Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman. The message deals with ways to bolster bilateral relations.

The visit by the Presidential Council member to the UAE was held on the basis of continuous contacts between President Salih and Shaykh Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The presidential Council member met in Abu Dhabi yesterday afternoon with members of the Yemeni community in the sisterly UAE and acquainted them with recent developments in our country and the government's efforts to overcome the results of the sedition incited by the gang of rebellion and secession.

On Amnesty, Emigres' Return, al-Bid

LD2607110094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 26 Jul (KUNA)—'Abd-al-Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, and the delegation accompanying him concluded an official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and left Abu Dhabi heading for Doha. This came at the end of the Yemeni delegation's two-day official visit to the UAE during which a message was delivered to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on the relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

In statements he made yesterday on his arrival in Abu Dhabi, 'Abd-al-Ghani said that his country is working to apply the general and comprehensive amnesty decision to all those who left for the Sultanate of Oman, UAE, or any of the other neighboring counties because of the war. He affirmed that his country will work toward compensating all those who incurred losses because of this war and guaranteeing the emigres their rights as citizens who carried out their duties.

He also referred to Yemen's commitment to the democratic path and political and partisan pluralism, and pursuance of the principle of dialogue in resolving all the political issues raised in the Yemeni arena. [passage omitted]

In a reply to a question about rumors of Sanaa's readiness to hold talks with the southern [Yemeni] leaders, particularly 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and guaranteeing his safety, 'Abd-al-Ghani said that his country welcomes everyone who has condemned the secession and returned to work in the shadow of the Republic of Yemen.

He pointed out that the emigres are required to return to their country and commit themselves to constitutional legitimacy, the constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and the laws in force inside the state.

In this respect, he pointed out that the talks with the Yemeni Socialist Party, due to be held soon in Geneva or Paris, are still under study in Sanaa, and that the latter is committed to all decisions and statement issued by the Republic of Yemen in this respect. In his statements, 'Abd-al-Ghani denied the news reported by the news agencies about strikes and demonstrations in Mukalla. He pointed out that the situation is stable throughout the Republic of Yemen. He also confirmed that normal life has returned to the city of Aden after the restoral of the water, electricity, and telephone services.

News Agency Cited on Military Accord With U.S.

NC2607082594 Paris AFP in English 0651 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 26 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates has signed an accord on a programme of military cooperation with the United States, the official Emirates news agency WAM reported Monday [25 July].

After a US-led multinational force drove Iraqi occupying forces out of Kuwait in February 1991, Washington signed a defence accord with the Emirates to store military hardware in the country and to secure facilities for the US army on Kuwaiti soil.

Since then it has gone on to sign military cooperation accords with Bahrain and Qatar, which, like the Emirates and Kuwait, are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Yemen

Sanaa Reports Release of Diplomats in Algeria

JN2307050794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned from a reliable source that brother Ambassador Qasim 'Askar Jubran; brother Dr. Muhammad Qasim al-Thawr, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau and Brother Shaykh Hilal Bin-Salim al-Siyabi, Oman's ambassador to Algeria, were released last night in Algiers after they went missing for more than one week.

The source said Brother Ambassador Qasim 'Askar Jubran telephoned Sanaa last night and said he and the others were released by [words indistinct] and that they were all in good health. He also said they were well treated in captivity.

Authorities Release 4,000 Captured Southern Troops

LD2607120194 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Yemeni Government has released 4,000 southern Yemeni army soldiers and officers who had surrendered during the recent civil war in Yemen. Yemeni Defense Minister 'Abd-al-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi said that these soldiers and officers will be integrated in units of the Yemeni armed forces.

Sanaa Sets Conditions for Dialogue With YSP

MM2507151494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Sanaa: Five Conditions for Dialogue With Socialist Party"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—Sanaa yesterday specified its conditions for the dialogue with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. A high-ranking government source has said that the Yemeni Government has not discussed any question related to the dialogue, which is supposed to take place in Paris. The source pointed out that crystallizing the dialogue depends on the southerners' acceptance of five conditions:

1. Recognition of constitutional legitimacy.
2. Absolute recognition of the results of the elections held in the country on 27 April 1993.
3. Implementation of the remaining clauses of the Pledge and Accord Document represented in the local government system.
4. Compliance with the tripartite coalition document when arbitrating among the People's Congress, the Reform Grouping, and the Socialist Party.
5. Conducting the dialogue with political organizations, not individuals. [passage omitted]

With regard to the dialogue, a government source, who asked to remain anonymous, pointed out to AL-HAYAH that the government in Sanaa has not yet decided who is going to represent it in the dialogue with the "rebels," nor has it decided on the level of the dialogue. "Because the aim of going to Paris is to hold talks for the sake of dialogue. It is not a direct dialogue on certain points, because there are no points yet. So the task of whoever is going to represent the Yemeni Government is just to inform UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi that the Yemeni Government welcomes dialogue in the context of the conditions and principles in question. So if the rebels agree to them, we welcome this dialogue in the capital, Sanaa." [passage omitted]

YSP Accuses Government, Islamic Parties of Reprisals

NC2607083794 Paris AFP in English 2144 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 25 (AFP)—A leader of the southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Monday [25 July] accused the government and Islamic parties of carrying out reprisals against YSP members who stayed in Yemen at the end of the civil war.

"Our property has been confiscated and destroyed, our budget is frozen and our members are afraid," YSP member of parliament 'Ali Salih Obad Mokbel said.

Mokbel, one of four YSP political bureau members who stayed in Sanaa, added: "We can't even publish a newspaper because the government took our printing presses away."

Most southern leaders fled abroad after northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih seized their stronghold of Aden on July 7, ending the two-month war.

Mokbel, who comes from the southern city of Zinjibar, said his homes in Aden and Zinjibar had occupied by northerners since the war.

He said YSP members were expecting further "subtle reprisals" like losing their jobs.

But he said: "The chief problem is the crusade against us," from the Islamic al-Islah party.

Al-Islah is part of the ruling coalition in Sanaa, along with the YSP and Salih's General People's Congress. Its leading theorist is 'Abd-al Majid Zandani, a member of the presidential council.

"Shaykh Zandani continues to call us infidels and he and other imams (prayer leaders) tell the masses on Fridays that we do things prohibited by Islam," said Mokbel.

"Every Friday religious leaders speak out against socialists. It really is like a crusade."

Mokbel also said that thousands of Yemeni soldiers in exile should be allowed to return to Yemen.

He estimated that over 15,000 Yemeni soldiers are in exile, most in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Some 200 exiled soldiers have been allowed to return to Yemen already but much more had to be done, he said.

Northern and southern leaders have recently announced measures aimed at reconciliation in the wake of the war.

The government announced Monday the release of some 4,000 prisoners who had backed Salih's southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who declared a breakaway state after war broke out on May 5.

Meanwhile northern and southern representatives have met in the Omani capital of Muscat to discuss the amnesty declared by Salih, Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al Wahab al-Ansi said Monday.

The amnesty declared in May was to apply to all southerners except al-Bid and 15 colleagues, but government officials have said it would also apply to the 16 if they denounced their declaration of a breakaway state.

Over 25 exiled YSP members and at least one socialist representative from inside Yemen are to meet in Damascus later this month to discuss new party strategies, Mokbel said.

Until the YSP decides on a new leadership real dialogue between the ruling parties cannot begin, he said.

"I remain cautiously optimistic but now we have to concentrate on facts and realities. That's what will make a difference in the end," he said.

Former Southern Leaders Discuss Amnesty in Oman

NC2507132494 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Muscat, July 25 (AFP)—Yemen's former civil war foes have met in the Omani capital to discuss the amnesty declared by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-'Ansi said here Monday [25 July].

Salih's representatives and southern leaders who had fled to Oman when the two-month civil war ended earlier this month discussed the amnesty declared by Yemen's northern president in May, al-'Ansi told AFP.

The amnesty was to apply to all southerners except their leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 15 colleagues.

But 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, who was here for three days with al-'Ansi, said Sunday the amnesty would also apply to the 16 if they denounced the breakaway state they declared two weeks after war broke out on May 5.

Al-Bid and his colleagues fled to Oman after the key southern cities of Aden and Mukalla were captured by northern forces on July 7.

Al-'Ansi declined to say when the meeting was held and who attended.

'Abd-al-Ghani's delegation and a southern Yemeni team later travelled separately to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"The Emirates are concerned about a return to stability and achieving national reconciliation in Yemen," UAE President Zayid Ibn-Sultan al Nuhayyan told delegates from south Yemen in Al-'Ayn, 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Abu Dhabi.

It was the first meeting between Shaykh Zayid and the delegation leader, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who was named prime minister of the breakaway south Yemen state proclaimed on May 21.

'Abd-al-Ghani's delegation meanwhile made its first visit to the UAE since the north won the war.

The official UAE news agency WAM said Abd-al-Ghani brought a message for Shaykh Zayid from Salih.

Since the end of the war, Yemen has called for turning a new page in its relations with the Gulf Arab monarchies, most of which gave implicit recognition to the southern breakaway state.

Representatives of North, South To Meet in Geneva

NC2507202994 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Geneva, 25 Jul (AFP)—Yemen's former civil war foes are to meet in Geneva and not in Paris as originally forecast to discuss reconciliation in the wake of the two-month war, a diplomat said here Monday [25 July].

United Nations spokeswoman Therese Gastaut confirmed that talks between Yemeni government representatives and southern leaders would begin Thursday in Geneva under the auspices of UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

She said the talks, which are to last several days, are an extension of dialogue launched at the beginning of the month in New York on ways to secure a ceasefire in the fighting.

Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a northerner, will represent the Yemeni government.

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, named prime minister of the breakaway southern state declared on May 21, will represent southern leaders.

Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al Wahhab al-'Ansi said Monday that northern and southern representatives had met in the Omani capital Muscat to discuss the amnesty declared by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Salih's representatives and southern leaders who had fled to Oman when the war ended on July 7 discussed the amnesty declared by Yemen's northern president in May, al-'Ansi told AFP.

'Open Conflict' Emerging in Ba'th Party Leadership

MM2507125494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah, Amir Taheri, and Lutfi Shatarah in London, Hammud Munsir in Sanaa, and Khalil Matar in New York: "Southern Plan for Negotiation; Split Within Yemeni Ba'th Party"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Yemeni Ba'th Party yesterday lost its position—from Sanaa's point of view—as a candidate for promoting some kind of political balance with the Yemeni Reform Grouping in the context of the General People's Congress plans to limit the role of the Yemeni Socialist Party. That view was reinforced by the position taken by the southern leadership abroad and the positive reports about its formulating a four-point plan of action for the next phase.

The reason is the emerging open conflict among members of the Yemeni Ba'th Party leadership. Dr. Qasim Salam al-Sharjabi has been relieved of his post as the party's secretary general and 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahyub has been relieved of the post of party assistant secretary general, but both remain members of the leadership. That came after Salam was accused of being "a dictator who has seized the party's funds at home and abroad and tried to marginalize the roles of the other leadership members."

The Yemeni Ba'th Party's crisis began some 10 months ago when Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, Yemeni deputy prime minister and a respected national figure, decided to leave the party. He submitted his resignation directly to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn because of differences between him and Dr. Qasim Salam. 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahyub took a stand in support of Brig. Gen. Abu-Shawarib and maintained it throughout. Then Salam dismissed him four months ago.

While Abu-Shawarib participated, as a national figure, in the work of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, Salam remained in the "backstage of politics," until party sources yesterday announced that seven Regional Command members met the day before yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, member of the House of Representatives presidency, and 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahyub, and made the latest decisions.

Dr. Qasim Salam, however, held a meeting with his supporters headed by 'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash—whom he appointed assistant secretary general after dismissing 'Abd-al-Rahman Mayhub—and he also suspended the membership of Dirham Naji Abu-Luhum, Yahya al-'Udhri, 'Abdallah al-Jarmuzi, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud. Salam issued a statement accusing Dirham Abu-Luhum of attacking the printers of the party newspaper AL-JAMAHIR and withdrawing it [the paper] with the help of 30 gunmen.

Meanwhile, confirmed reports indicate that the southern leadership abroad has formulated a four-point plan of action for the next phase as follows:

1. Rejection of the fait accompli imposed by Sanaa through aggression.
2. Rejection of any separate deal between any southern group and the government of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.
3. Formation of a National Resistance Council to coordinate the struggle for justice and independence, to which some southern leaders and representatives of northern groups will be invited.
4. Work with international organizations, especially the United Nations and the Arab League, for the protection of the rights and property of the people in the south against terrorism, confiscation, and sabotage.

Some sources say that the question of forming a government in exile was raised at the meeting of the southern leaders but the discussion of that issue was postponed until the enlarged conference for which preparations are under way, which is expected to be held within the next few days to prepare for the Paris negotiations scheduled to take place on 28 July, in order to be able to negotiate from a position of strength despite the military defeat and having to leave Yemen. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Libyan Envoy, Congratulations

JN2407145394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received brother 'Ali al-Shamikh, member of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Libyan official relayed a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, to the brother president, congratulating him on the victories for unity achieved by our people to end the rebellion and sedition fomented by rebels in the homeland to tear its unity apart. Col. al-Qadhdhafi renewed Libya's support for Yemeni unity, which is a pan-Arab accomplishment, in which all Arabs take pride.

The brother Presidential Council chairman expressed his appreciation for the position adopted by the fraternal Libyans, headed by brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, toward the Yemeni crisis, and for the support they have lent to our people and their unity. He explained that our people will never forget the fraternal Libyans' noble pan-Arab positions. He indicated that the victory scored for Yemeni unity is a victory for all unity-orientated Arabs, and good people all over the world. He added that unity is a pan-Arab gain that will promote the Arab nation's potentials and nurture the Arab masses' aspirations for Arab unity. Additionally, it is a factor of wellbeing, security, and stability in the region, and for all Arabs and Muslims, as well.

The brother president asked the Libyan envoy to convey his greetings to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as well as his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for the fraternal Libyan people.

The meeting was attended by brother Ahmad Jubran, member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress.

Delegation Said in Paris To Meet Kurds

MM2507150094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Paris Speaks of Presence of High-Level Iraqi Delegation for Negotiation With Kurds"]

[Text] London—Iraqi opposition sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a high-level Iraqi delegation is now secretly in Paris where it has been holding talks for a week with representatives of the two biggest Iraqi Kurdish parties with the aim of reaching a comprehensive agreement for the normalization of their relations which deteriorated after the fierce fighting between their militias which began early in May and continued for over a month.

According to the same sources, the Iraqi delegation, which French circles say is in Paris and includes certain figures with a certain mission, is in fact headed by someone who is "very close" to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and could possibly be his half brother Barzan al-Tikriti, the president's political adviser, or his second son Qusayy, the head of the special security organ in charge of protecting the president, his family, and senior officials of the government, the ruling Ba'th Party, and the major government institutions.

Athough the sources hinted at a "link" between the presence of that delegation and the presence of two delegations from the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani, sources of the two parties in London have categorically denied any kind of direct or indirect negotiations between the Kurds and the Iraqi Government at the present time. There were reports last week about a French offer of mediation for reconciliation between the Kurdish leaders and the Iraqi Government. According to a PUK responsible source contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, the mission of the two Kurdish delegations is confined to "discussion of normalization of relations between the two parties and the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan." The source stressed that the members of the two delegations "have instructions not to respond to any such French mediation effort if it did indeed take place."

Meanwhile, the KDP (led by Barzani) has accused elements of the PUK (led by Talabani) of planning an attempt to assassinate Francois Hariri, member of the party's Central Committee and chairman of its parliamentary bloc in the local Kurdish parliament, last Tuesday and of detaining two of the party's deputies. In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the party said that while Hariri, who is a member of the Assyrian minority, was "returning to the city of Salah-al-Din from a regular day's work at the assembly (parliament), he was ambushed and was the target of a hail of fire between Irbil and the village of Pirzin. He survived the attempt but was lightly wounded." The statement added that Azad Qurrah Daghi and Fadil Ra'uf, members of the party's parliamentary bloc, "were at the same time detained and then released after the PUK general secretariat was contacted." A PUK source has denied that PUK elements had tried to assassinate Hariri. He gave a different version of the incident saying that it was a limited exchange of fire between members of the two parties in a work complex near Irbil "and Hariri, it seems, happened to be in his car at the scene of the incident at the time and bullets, which seemed to have come from the direction of the KDP, hit the car and he suffered minor injuries from the car's flying glass." The source denied any knowledge of the detention of two other members of the Kurdish parliament.

Egyptian Delegation Arrives To Discuss Imports

NC2407153294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (MENA)—At the invitation of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry an Egyptian trade delegation, representing a number of Egyptian companies, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit that will last several days. The delegation will discuss the export of essential goods for Iraq, the value of which will be paid from Iraqi funds frozen abroad.

'Isam al-Khashshab, head of the delegation and director general of the Arab Foreign Trade Company, said the Egyptian delegation will submit to Iraqi Trade Ministry officials offers of products manufactured by Egyptian investment and private companies.

This is the first visit by an Egyptian trade delegation to Baghdad since 1990. President Mubarak recently noted that it is necessary to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade imposed on them.

Ramadan Views 1994 'Achievements,' U.S. 'Defeat'

JN2307151594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has asserted that the year 1994 has seen many international political developments and positive results achieved by the Iraqis, thanks to their patience and insistence on defending great Iraq, led by President Saddam Husayn.

Addressing the opening session of the seventh meeting of the Central Council of the Iraqi General Federation of Trade Unions, Ramadan said: The majority of the Security Council permanent member states have freed themselves of U.S. domination and demonstrated an understanding of Iraq's positive attitudes. This is a developed international position, a defeat for the United States, and a rejection of its colonialist policy. He stressed that the United States seeks to maintain the Iraq blockade to achieve its objectives in the region and plunder its oil resources. [passage omitted]

'Izzat Ibrahim Reportedly Under House Arrest

JN2507154594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, is now under house arrest. These sources say al-Duri has disappeared from the Iraqi political scene after a number of prominent figures from the al-Duri tribe were dismissed from their posts two months ago.

Lieutenant General Sabir al-Duri, director of the Iraqi Intelligence Service, and Khadr al-Duri, member of the ruling Ba'th Party's Regional Command, and some of their prominent relatives were dismissed from their posts in June.

Islamic Jihad Leader Cables Appreciation to Saddam

JN2507124094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, asserting that the sons of Palestine are praying to Almighty God to champion his excellency and crown his jihad with a decisive victory. The cable reads:

Your ban on the things which are prohibited by God, thus getting closer to God, is the beginning of good and victory. If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

The victory granted by God can be achieved by implementing His rules, which you have begun to do. May God protect you and plant your feet firmly. The more you implement the religious laws, the more fear God will strike in the hearts of the infidels. Your actions recall Prophet Muhammad's saying: God struck fear in the hearts of my enemies who were a month's walk away from me.

The infidelity which is conspiring against you is led by the United States. It also consists of various states and Arab hypocrites who are relentlessly instigating others against you because they fear both Islam, which you are implementing, and the victory looming in the horizon. You have begun to prepare for this victory by making people learn the Koran by heart and by implementing the religious laws.

This hypocrisy is led by both the Al Sa'ud family and the dwarfs among the al-Sabah family, who are the mukhtars [heads of government] of Kuwait. However, God will not disappoint those who are with God. What you are passing through is only a test by God designed to test both you and your patience. Easy times will come after hard times. Victory and relief will follow patience. God will certainly aid those who aid his cause for verily god is full of strength, exalted in might. [Koranic verse]

The people of Palestine pray to God to champion you that you may have, further closeness to God and further application of His laws. God will protect you from the United States, the West, and the Arabs revolving in their orbit. Proceed, blessed by God, to destroy the enemies of God.

July Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN2207102394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League Secretariat that facilities are still being provided by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to American, British, and French aircraft for their violations of Iraqi airspace, noting that these violations pose a threat to the security, sovereignty, and national unity of the country.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy said that from 9 to 17 July, these aircraft mounted 269 sorties, having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's envoy asked that copies of the letter, which detailed the violations, be circulated among the member states.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Disdains U.S. Rwandan 'Deception'

JN2307111794 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad,July 23, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily newspaper of Baghdad today scoffed at the American deception represented in the American President's recent call for a swift move to extend urgent help to victims of civil war in Rwanda.

The paper said that every citizen in Iraq, Yugoslavia, Africa, the Central Asian Republics and Russia holds the American President and his adminstration responsible for his sufferings and understands that employing slogans of democracy and human rights is nothing but a cheap misguiding and foolish act reflecting the American behaviour.

The paper said today we witness an end to the legend of the American human rights for the people of Iraq are blockaded and deprived from food and medicines because of oil.

It pointed out that the United States did not intervene into Rwanda and prevent the killing of some half a million people and stopping the sufferings of another four millions because Rwanda is poor and has no oil.

Paper Hails Anniversary of July 1968 Revolution

JN2207150794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Ba'thist Revolution, the Revolution of Dignity, Remains Lofty and Victorious"]

[Text] The sons of our struggling people and the Arab nation today celebrate the 26th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution which was carried out and led on its victorious path for more than a quarter of a century by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the party of the toiling Arab masses, and its unique struggler leader Saddam Husayn, the engineer of the revolution and the pilot of its ship to the shores of dignity, honor, and safety.

Twenty-six years, whose hallmark was brilliance and vigor by the revolution, its leader, and faithful people in all fields, have passed. It is no secret that the great Ba'thist revolution has placed the individual at the top of its priorities. It struggled in order to fortify him with principles and to raise his standard on the struggle, cultural, social, and economic levels. The outcome has been an individual who is ready to struggle, toil, and defend the revolution, the homeland, and the gains which have been achieved throughout the long life of the revolution to the last drop of his blood.

There is nothing new in saying that the pioneering role which President Saddam Husayn has played in leading the party and the state along unusual, or rather hitherto unknown, courses has had a great effect in strengthening and consolidating the revolution, and thus enabling it to confront all the plots to which it has been exposed since its outbreak on 17 July 1968 revolution, when enemies from every direction brawled over the revolution in a desperate attempt to undermine its loftiness and restrain its legitimate vigor and enthusiasm in defense of sovereignty, honor, and independence and out of concern that national resources should belong to the sons of the people to be exploited for their happiness and for raising their standard. This was what had happened when the revolution carried out nationalization of oil. A period of great development and economic boom followed, transferring our steadfast Iraq from the rank of backward states to that of advancing states. That period witnessed the entrenchment of the industrial base and the infrastructure for gigantic projects of strategic dimensions whose fruits will be reaped not only by our present generation but also by future generations.

The pan-Arab stands of the revolution and its leader party have been the direct cause for arousing the hatred of the imperialists. By targeting the revolution, the imperialists wanted to strike at the Arab nation's sentiments at the core. When the revolution stood with all its power and capabilities alongside the struggle of the sons of the Palestinian people, it became a target for imperialism and Zionism. And, when Iraq stubbornly defended the Arab nation's security against rancorous Iranian greed, being the eastern flank of the Arab homeland, it was exposed to the longest and most ferocious aggression faced by any Arab country for defending the interests of the Arab nation rather than its own.

It was not strange following the series of great accomplishments represented by the great nationalization, the autonomy for the sons of our Kurdish people, the administrative revolution which was led by struggler President Saddam Husayn to streamline the government and reorganize its procedures, what could be termed the industrial revolution which created an advanced strong industrial and technological base, and finally the crushing victory over the Iranian aggression, for the revolution to continue to be the main target for imperialism and Zionism. It was at this point that planning began to clog the revolution's wheel which was forging ahead with resolution and determination. Agent regimes were encouraged to plot against Iraq in preparation for the 30-state imperialist-NATO aggression, which was carried out by the enemies on the night of 16-17 January 1991—hence the Mother of Battles in which our people faced the aggression with the resolution of faithful strugglers and triumphed over the aggressors. Only a few days are left before the fall of the last chapter in this aggression represented by the unjust blockade. And, that will not be far away, God willing.

The enemies have targeted the glorious 17-30 July Revolution because it has followed a course that is essentially different from the one taken by the revolutions of the developing or Third World countries, as they call them, and also because it constitutes a threat to the interests of imperialism and Zionism and their plans to dominate peoples' resources and wealth, headed by oil. Iraq has the second largest proven oil deposits in the world.

Despite all their rancorous aims, for which they massed the most up to date weapons in their arsenals during the criminal 30-state aggression, the Ba'thist revolution, the revolution of dignity, has remained lofty with its head held high. Its unique leader Saddam Husayn has also remained an example of the revolutionary struggler and pioneering leader of a people who are determined to assert their right to life and to triumph over their enemies.

Congratulations to the sons of our people and Arab nation on the 26th anniversary of the revolution.

It is a pledge to the symbolic leader Saddam Husayn that the sons of the people will remain a solid wall on which all plots will be wrecked.

Immortality to the martyrs who irrigated the national soil with their blood in order to give life to the tree of dignity and honor and to keep the homeland fortified and protected by the will of its sons and the determination of its leader.

Warm congratulations on the anniversary of the masses' revolution. Many happy returns to the revolution, its leader, and our people.

Rabin on Accord With Jordan, Golan Withdrawal

BR2607111094 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 30 Jul 94 pp 70-73

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Carlo Rossella in Tel Aviv on 17 July: "Destiny of Peace"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Rossella] Will the summit between you and the king of Jordan [Husayn]—to be held on Monday [25 July] in Washington—lead to a peace treaty?

[Rabin] It will be an important milestone on the path toward peace. As you know, the aim of the October 1991 Madrid conference was to achieve complete peace. However, a genuine peace cannot be built up but on a bilateral basis, as Egypt and Israel did 16 years ago, and as Israel and the Palestinian representatives did last year. Now it is Jordan which is going down this road. We hope that in the future Syria and Lebanon will do the same thing.

You see, in the Arab-Israeli conflict there are two basic elements. The first is psychological and is the result of all that has happened between us and the Arab world: prejudice, violence, and war. It is essential to knock down this wall of mistrust. By doing so, we can then successfully and rationally confront the political elements that have been brought up. In every official and open meeting between the leadership of Israel and the leadership of an Arab country, in every handshake which commits the parties to take practical steps toward a peace treaty, I see a large stride step down a long road. The peace process takes time. There is no doubt that the Washington meeting will be an event that has two consequences. Indeed, there have already been some.

[Rossella] Such as?

[Rabin] On Saturday, 16 July, Israeli journalists made their reports from Jordan. That had never happened before in the past. It is a small thing when looked at with a European eye, but in the Middle East all this has great significance.

[Rossella] It has been written that you already know King Husayn. That in the past, and indeed just a few weeks ago, you secretly met with him. I would like to ask you: In Washington, will you or will you not be seeing King Husayn for the first time?

[Rabin] I cannot answer that question. I will only say that I will be meeting him publicly for the first time.

[Rossella] Syria has not seemed too enthusiastic about this summit, since King Husayn has broken ranks and is preparing to be the second country, after Egypt, to sign an agreement with Israel. Syria does not like these bilateral treaties. Damascus seems to prefer large conferences, like the one held in Madrid, where all the parties are seated at the same table.

[Rabin] Since 1948, no Arab-Israeli agreement has ever emerged from large conferences. The Madrid meeting provided a framework for achieving peace, but peace is an edifice made up of large stones which must be put in place one by one. Hence the need and importance of bilateral treaties which lead to more concrete results.

[Rossella] Some people in Israel are saying that, to keep Syria sweet, the sovereignty of the Golan Heights—currently occupied by the Israeli Army—will have to be recognized forthwith. What do you think about that?

[Rabin] The question of sovereignty must be linked to the question of withdrawal from the Golan, and therefore to peace. We are prepared to leave the Golan, but only in exchange for peace and security agreements. For the time being, we are talking to Syria via the United States, not directly as we did with Egypt, as we did last year with the Palestinians, and as we are now doing with Jordan. I therefore would not advise the Israelis to concede anything to the Syrians without knowing what they will receive in return, in view of the fact that direct negotiations—either secret or official—are not yet under way.

[Rossella] Will there be peace with Syria before Israel's general elections in 1996?

[Rabin] I am not a prophet; I cannot know. I will only say that our goal is to achieve a peace treaty with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, as well as to honor our agreements with the Palestinians. We will do our best to achieve peace. However, we do not want peace without security. For example, we want to be able to verify the normalization of relations before completing the withdrawal.

[Rossella] What does all this mean?

[Rabin] This means that we want to follow the line adopted with Egypt. In November 1977, President al-Sadat came to Jerusalem. He prayed for peace and spoke before the Knesset, which is our parliament. In doing so, he convinced our people. He who had fought against Israel more than anyone else, came here to ask for peace. The walls of hate, suspicion, prejudice—along with the psychological barriers—fell. However, it took a year before the Camp David accords were signed on 17 September 1978. And another six months were needed before the peace treaty was signed. So, these are long periods of time, despite al-Sadat's extraordinary gesture. Despite all that, it was only in February 1980 that Israel withdrew from the first half of the occupied Sinai. When Israel left the Sinai completely, relations with Egypt had already been normalized for some time: There were open borders, exchanges of ambassadors, commerce, and tourism.

President Hafiz al-Asad has not yet visited Israel and he has not yet said whether he will agree to a direct meeting with any Israeli leader. However, even if al-Asad changes his approach on the Golan issue, for a certain period of time we will be running more than a calculated risk.

Indeed, there are enormous security problems. The Golan is much smaller than the Sinai, but the heights dominate northern Israel. For this reason we want precise agreements regarding security, including an agreement on a monitoring force, such as the one that was deployed in the Sinai. This force included thousands of American soldiers, even a battalion of troops. We might need even more people in the Golan, but I do not want to go into details at this time. I would prefer to concern myself with general principles.

[Rossella] Who will pray first at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, 'Arafat or King Husayn?

[Rabin] I do not think it would be advisable at this time for 'Arafat to ask us to come and pray at al-Aqsa, even though ever since Jerusalem was united after the Six Day War—and here I would repeat that Jerusalem will always remain united under Israeli sovereignty—everyone has had complete freedom of worship in holy places. If tomorrow, al-Qadhdhafi were to ask to come to Jerusalem, we would agree. If King Husayn or al-Asad were to make the same request, then they would certainly receive a positive reply.

[Rossella] I can see that you are very cautious with 'Arafat. What did you feel when you had to shake his hand for the first time?

[Rabin] For me 'Arafat represents the symbol of a long and bloody struggle by the Palestinians against us. He represents the terrorism and violence which his organization has unleashed against the Jewish people for many years. However, allow me to say one thing: Once we created Israel, we also decided who our neighbors would be, i.e., the Arabs, the Islamic world. Naturally we would have preferred different neighbors, but that was—and is—the reality. There are two ways to face this reality: either in peace, with all the guarantees of security, or by continuing to live with the risk of violence and war. We must make peace with enemies. We want to live in peace in this region of the world. On the one hand, there are treaties. On the other, there are risks and dangers. We therefore want to give concrete form to our hopes and reduce dangers. We know how to run calculated risks, but we do it for peace, in the knowledge that some of our enemies will remain our enemies, even after any such agreements.

[Rossella] Do you trust 'Arafat?

[Rabin] We made a strategic decision to view the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians. We dealt with the organization, not with a single person. We did not choose their leader, and they did not choose ours.

[Rossella] One and a half month after the beginning of the autonomy process in Gaza and Jericho, what is your opinion of the results, including in the light of clashes between Palestinian workers and the Israeli Army at the Gaza border post?

[Rabin] Mistakes were made by the Palestinian police, which let workers holding passes arrive at our checkpoint. Hence the reaction provoked by some agitators. However, apart from these incidents, we are continuing down the path set out by the agreements. The local Palestinian authorities must get used to the new situation, and to the details of the peace accords—especially in Gaza, which has 800,000 inhabitants. From the economic point of view, for example, little has been done. The PLO has not yet created the structure demanded by donor countries for channeling in money. The PLO has no idea how a balance sheet is made out in a democratic government. In addition, none of the donor countries—from the United States to Europe and Japan—is prepared to give money without knowing where it is going to end up, since they must account for this to their parliaments. The result of this negligence is that little funding has come in. There is therefore the problem of paying the policemen's and civil servants' wages.

[Rossella] 'Arafat does not want to be the mayor of Jerusalem. He is aiming for something more....

[Rabin] The "declaration of principle" has its times and its ways. Last week, we initiated other meetings in Cairo to continue improving the agreements and autonomy of the Palestinians in the areas granted to them.

[Rossella] Do you think you will win in 1996 too?

[Rabin] I am more interested today in the peace process within a context of security and the country's economic and social development, than the results of a future election. It is my primary responsibility to stick by what I have promised.

[Rossella] Some right-wing opposition members, hopeful of beating you, have said that if they win they want to annul the agreements with the PLO. Are you afraid that this could happen?

[Rabin] I think that it is in the tradition of all governments to ensure that agreements are respected. I do not believe that any agreement can be annulled in the future, because if a government were to tear up pacts signed in the past, that would give our neighbors the right to do the same thing. Nothing is more dangerous for an Israeli politician than saying: "I have the right to annul the international accords which a previous government signed." Because, I repeat, that would give the same right to the Arabs. It is easier to annul peace than take back the Sinai or any territory which we might exchange for peace in the future.

[Rossella] One month ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin expressed his great concern about the presence of three National Alliance [AN] ministers in the Italian Government. Are you concerned about that too?

[Rabin] We have questions about one of the parties which is part of the Italian coalition. However, we have great esteem for Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and for many members of his cabinet, who we have known for some time. We are also aware of the pro-Israel statements made by some of the members of the majority who belong to the party you mentioned. We will judge the Italian Government, and the parties which make up the coalition, on the basis of their behavior toward Israel, democracy, and Jews.

[Rossella] In short, you are not worried?

[Rabin] I repeat that we have some queries. However, we will judge on the basis of behavior. For example, I feel that the statements which [AN leader] Gianfranco Fini made about Israel on Israeli TV were very positive.

Mayor: 'No Problem' With Jordan Over Clause

TA2507171894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has congratulated Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the agreement of principles signed with Jordan, saying this is an important achievement. Mr. Olmert sees no problem with the clause in the agreement dealing with King Husayn's status at Jerusalem's holy sites. If what we are talking about is the administration of the Muslim holy sites by a religious body such as the Higher Muslim Council, Olmert said, then this is a reasonable course for dialogue and is far preferable to giving any status whatsoever to the PLO in Jerusalem.

Division Between Jordan, Palestinians Noted

TA2507161294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 94 p A3

[Report by Dani Rubinstein and Nadav Shragay]

[Text] On the eve of the summit meeting in Washington, Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi from Nabulus, a leading member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], lashed out at the PLO leadership, saying that the agreement it signed with Israel opened before it the door to break into the Arab world.

Shaykh al-Baytawi was deported to Lebanon in December 1992 and is the chairman of the League of Palestinian Ulema in the territories. He said that Israel has gone on with its policy of occupation and oppression, and mentioned the Erez checkpoint incidents. According to him, there is an Israeli plan to Judaize Jerusalem and lay siege to its Arab inhabitants and the Islamic Waqf.

The Jerusalem question tops the list of issues being discussed by the Palestinians in the context of a possible arrangement between Israel and Jordan. On the heels of 'Arafat's declaration that he is the only person authorized to invite people to pray in Jerusalem, the Palestinians launched a political campaign against Jordan meddling in the affairs of Jerusalem.

To this end, the PLO leadership sought the assistance of the Higher Muslim Council in East Jerusalem. Its chairman, Shaykh Hasan al-Hajj Tahbub, announced last weekend that the council is the only body responsible for the Islamic Waqf in the city.

Faysal al-Husayni said over the weekend that in his opinion Husayn will not accept Israel's invitations to visit Jerusalem and pray in its mosques. He called on Arab and Islamic institutions to consolidate a united front against Israel's moves in Jerusalem.

Responding to al-Husayni's call, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, the leader of Hamas in Gaza, said yesterday that his movement is prepared to cooperate with the national institutions on this issue, on condition that this is not taken to mean that Hamas supports the autonomy agreement. The Palestinians are particularly outraged and worried about what they perceive as Israel's use of Husayn's pronouncements about his role with regard to the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem.

His remarks came in response to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' praise of King Husayn who, according to him, put the problem of Jerusalem in a religious rather than a political context. Hanan 'Ashrawi said over the weekend that in addition to its religious importance, Jerusalem is also "land, and people, and institutions, and political, historical, and cultural rights."

In contrast, Rabbi Menahem Fruman from Teqoa' stated yesterday that Hamas is on the verge of recognizing Jordan and King Husayn as representing the religious interests of Israel's Muslims. According to Furman, who has been conducting a dialogue with Hamas members for several years, "Shaykh al-Baytawi's announcement that an agreement with Jordan will open before Israel a door to the Arab world is a signal to that effect."

Rabbi Furman said he could not elaborate on the issue, but he noted that a large deal is in the works between Jordanian clerics and the Israeli Government. "The main benefit the State of Israel may derive from the contacts with Jordan is to make the most heinous murderers to lay down their arms. This would come through recognition of the power of religion and by channeling religious forces toward the recognition of Israel," the rabbi said.

Israeli Government officials and Hamas members from the territories and Jordan have been holding meetings in recent weeks. One such meeting, which was attended by a senior Hamas member from Jordan, was held two months ago in Ramallah. The possibility of Hamas joining the political arrangements between Israel, the PLO, and the Arab countries was raised in this meeting.

Labor Group Seeks Clear Policies, 'Secure' Borders

TA2507151494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 94 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Text] "We must maintain secure borders in our negotiations with the Arab states, clearly define the goals of peace, and dispel the ambiguity and vagueness in the political negotiations with the Arabs." These are part of the demands raised by a group of Labor Knesset Members [MK's], who met yesterday in Tel Aviv.

The members of the Labor party's "Mainstream Circle," led by Minister Shim'on Shetrit, convened in order to consolidate their positions on political, economic, and party affairs. The convention was attended by over 200 party members, including MK's Masha Lubelsky, 'Imanu'el Zismann, Yosi Vanunu, Avigdor Qahalani, Ra'anan Kohen, and Yoram Lass.

The participants demanded that their representatives in the government maintain secure borders on the Golan Heights and the Jordan Rift Valley in any negotiations, and uphold Israel's sovereignty over metropolitan Jerusalem.

The group also came out in support of a confederative solution with Jordan and the Palestinians and expressed opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

During the debate, the participants called on the breakaway Labor MK's to rejoin the party on an individual basis, and expressed continued support for closed ballot primaries prior to the Knesset. The group called for a 50-percent reduction in Labor party membership dues to 60 shekels a year.

Histadrut Parliament Convenes, Appoints Executive

TA2507133794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] The Histadrut's new parliament convened for the first time yesterday and elected the new executive.

The parliament replaces the executive committee, and the executive bureau will now be known as the executive. Newly-appointed Histadrut Secretary-General Hayim Ramon will have a new title as well, and will be known as the Histadrut chairman, according to parliament chairman MK [Knesset Member] Ran Kohen.

The meeting was marred by a stormy demonstration of hundreds of the Histadrut's tax collection workers, who beseiged Histadrut headquarters.

They were protesting the expected dismissals of most of them when the collection is tranferred to the National Insurance Institutions, with the introduction of the national health insurance law. The demonstrators demanded the same severance pay as Israel Aircraft Industries workers, complaining that so far, despite all the promises, no one had met with them to discuss their future. MKs Hayim Oron and 'Amir Peretz promised to help them and the siege was finally lifted and the new Histadrut parliament, trimmed down from 374 to 122 members, could begin its first session.

The new Histadrut executive, yesterday voted on by the parliament, consists of 23 members; 13 representatives of the ruling Ram faction, of them four of Ramon's camp including Ramon himself; four from Mapam [United Workers Party], three from Shas [Torah Observing Sephardim]; two from the Citizens Rights Movement; nine Labor members, one member of the Arab Democratic Party, and one representative of the Joint Jewish-Arab List.

The members of the executive are, apart from Ramon: Na'amat Secretary-General 'Ofra Friedman (Labor), Treasurer MK Hayim Oron (Mapam), Chairman of the Trade Union Section MK 'Amir Peretz (Ram), Chairman of the Organization and Labor Council Section Pini Shomer (Labor), Chairman of the Administration, Personnel and Instruction Section Me'ir Gatt (Labor), Chairperson of the Youth, Young Guard and Students Section Noga Botanksy (Labor), Ya'aqov Yishay (Ram), Shmu'el Avital (Ram), David Tal (Shas), Yoram Obrakovitz (Labor), Efra'im Zilony (Mapam), Ghalib Majadlah (Labor), Hayim Haberfeld (Labor), Binyamin Gonen (Joint List), Ehud Paporish (Labor), 'Adina Marks (Mapam), Gershon Gelman (Labor), Michel Elmaliah (Labor) and Muhammad Mafra (Mapam).

Labor's Arab representative Ghalib Majadlah will receive an operative portfolio on the executive, thus becoming the first Arab member to enjoy the privilege.

Ram MK Shmu'el Avital did not show up for the convention. He reportedly had his heart set on receiving the settlement portfolio, but was refused. The parliament voted on only one out of three Shas representatives in the executive—David Tal—and Shas's mentor Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef is to decide on the remaining two members within the next few days.

Ramon surveyed his activity during the past six months and promised to pay Kupat Holim the NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2.2 billion undertaken by the Histadrut, noting that for the first time, 90 percent of the *mas ahid* (Histadrut membership dues) will be going to Kupat Holim.

He said there would be no escape from dismissals, and the personnel list of Histadrut headquarters will be adapted to its new needs, instead of the other way around. However, he promised all firings will be made with full coordination with the workers' union.

Ramon reiterated his statement that from now on the Histradrut's pension funds will not be bound to work with Bank Hapoalim exclusively, ignoring the fact that for the past five years the pension funds have been working with other banks as well.

Al-Hasan, Others Examine Washington Declaration

JN2607103794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for Foreign Affairs, has stated that the clauses of cooperation that were agreed to in the Washington declaration between Jordan and Israel are part of a phased method within a regional concept. They will not prejudice the final outcome of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on the joint working agenda which covers border, land, water, security, and refugee issues.

In reply to a question by the Jordanian News Agency, al-Hasan said that this means not prejudicing Jordan's right to reexercise its sovereignty on its territories, and Jordan's right to its water and to the settlement of the refugee issue within the framework of international legitimacy, particularly resolution 194 which stipulates the right to repatriation or to compensation.

In reply to another question on the termination of the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel contained in the declaration, Mr. al-Hasan said this is stipulated in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which all the Arab countries accepted following the 1967 war. He added that these two resolutions are the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference and on whose basis the negotiations are being held on their Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks.

Concerning the mention in the declaration that Israel respects the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem and on giving high priority to Jordan for its historic role regarding these shrines, his eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Tamimi, his majesty's adviser for religious affairs, has stated that Jerusalem is an occupied Arab territory and will be dealt with as occupied Arab territory. As for the shrines in Jerusalem, the Jordanian Hashemite role has continued uninterrupted since the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in spite of the legal and administrative disengagement decision which excluded awqaf, holy shrines, and Islamic affairs. He added: Jordan's Hashemite role reached its climax in the third Hashemite renovation of the shrines in Jerusalem. His eminence said: As a result of the desire expressed by the Arab and Islamic nation, and following the Rabat summit resolution and the disengagement decision, the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative, was given the responsibility to regain the occupied Palestinian Arab lands. Jordan has supported the PLO in its endeavors to achieve this.

Shaykh al-Tamimi said: As for the declaration's mention of the Muslim shrines, it only confirms the Jordanian Hashemite role that the kingdom has carried out. He added: The natural thing is that the Hashemite custodianship over the shrines should not be interrupted.

He said that His Majesty King Husayn has announced on all occasions that sovereignty on the shrines in Jerusalen belongs to God alone and that the jurisdiction over our shrines is a legitimate right of the nation.

Negotiator Notes 'Striking' Jerusalem Clause

JN2607125294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 29

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpts] Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said the Washington Declaration is a watershed in the history of the region, adding that His Majesty King Husayn has assumed historical responsibilities that only great leaders can undertake.

He noted that the striking point in the Washington Declaration is the third clause, which asserts Israel's respect for the special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan toward the Islamic holy sites in holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Regarding the clauses of the Washington Declaration on a series of steps that symbolize the new stage, such as phone links, electricity linkage, and opening border crossings, Dr. Haddadin said that with the official announcement of these steps, work is expected to begin to implement them. He noted that there is a need for technical and engineering studies and designs and specifications that must be drawn up to implement the electricity linkage, for example, and to build a road in the southern part of Wadi al-'Arabah, to be used by third-country foreign tourists.

As for opening international air corridors between the two countries, he said: The party that will immediately benefit from this is Jordan, because using Israel's airspace will reduce the time of flights west toward Europe and North Africa. This will also reduce the cost of trips. As for Israel, it will have to wait for the opening of air corridors for Israeli civil planes in our neighboring countries.

Concerning the seventh clause on resuming negotiations on economic issues, Dr. Haddadin said this clause concerns preparations for future bilateral cooperation. This is stated in the sixth clause of the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda. [passage omitted]

Al-'Anani Discusses Israeli Boycott, Jerusalem

JN2607124194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 94 pp 1, 24

[Text] Washington, AL-DUSTUR—Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani said here last night that Jordan and Israel have agreed to work toward ending the Arab boycott, and have not actually ended it, as U.S. President Bill Clinton has said.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-'Anani said: Reactions to His Majesty King Husayn's speech were marvelous because the speech was full of sincere emotions and was spontaneous and frank.

On the question of Jerusalem, al-'Anani said the postponement of the subject of the holy city to the final stage will leave a vacuum of three years. Therefore, recognizing Jordan's central role—based on the renovation of al-Aqsa and Salah-al-Din's pulpit and rejecting the internationalization of holy sites—would fill this vacuum and ensures maintaining Arab-Islamic presence in Jerusalem.

The information minister added that Jordan would not demarcate its borders with the West Bank because this falls within the jurisdiction of the Palestinian authority, and not Israel.

Regarding al'Aqabah, al-'Anani said the port will be revitalized because Israel will use the port of Elat less. He also said that the electric linkage project and the telephone links, mentioned in the Washington Declaration, need to be studied.

Dr. al-'Anani said what His Majesty King Husayn said in his speech goes beyond what was mentioned in the Washington Declaration. His majesty spoke about ending the state of war, while the text speaks about ending the state of belligerency.

Al-'Anani added that a quadripartite Jordanian-Egyptian-Israeli-Palestinian committee has been formed to discuss the subject of the displaced. He said Jordan cannot sign a peace treaty with Israel if the question of Palestinian refugees was not solved.

Views Declaration, Summit

JN2607082194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, in Washington, by Suhayl Khuri, in the studio, on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Your Excellency the Minister: How do you view the Washington summit and the recent developments in the peace process?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, I would like to say that today's meetings at the White House have largely emphasized the great role played by His Majesty King Husayn. The two speeches delivered by his majesty were extremely wonderful, in terms of performance, sincerity, and a complete vision of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, which Jordan has advocated all along. His majesty's two speeches were received with great attention and reactions commensurate with the sincere emotions expressed by his majesty, who has long struggled to attain an honorable peace accepted by future generations.

[Khuri] Dr. al-'Anani, how do you view the Washington Declaration?

[Al-'Anani] The Washington Declaration reasserts the basic principles in the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda signed on 14 September 1993. It is the outcome of what has been achieved in the bilateral negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah and the trilateral negotiations at the Dead Sea almost 10 days ago. The most important thing in the declaration is ending the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel so the two sides can now draw up basic outlines and practical steps to implement the clauses of the agreement, primarily, restoration of water and the occupied Jordanian territory, as well as taking measures to develop the Jordan Valley region and other measures that would help boost peace.

[Khuri] Your Excellency the Minister: Have there been negotiations with the U.S. side on bilateral ties and how do you view their future prospects?

[Al-'Anani] Yes, in fact President Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and all other U.S. officials are cooperating with the Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, to make the necessary arrangements for debt relief and other military assistance programs. In addition, some other programs will be discussed to extend aid to Jordan so as to boost its foreign currency reserve, help it bear the burdens resulting from the peace process, and promote development in Jordan.

[Khuri] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, as you know his majesty will address Congress. What is the importance of this speech?

[Al-'Anani] Yes, His Majesty King Husayn will deliver a very important speech to a joint session of Congress. The speech will underline Jordanian principles regarding the peace process and how Jordan envisions the future of the region in era of peace. Many U.S. congressmen have started to demonstrate a great understanding toward Jordan. Therefore, we can say that we have overcome the stage of strained relations that prevailed in the wake of the Gulf war.

[Khuri] We thank Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani.

Land Recognition 'Most Clear' Result of Talks

JN2507095094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 94 p 12

[Special report by Natasha Bokhari]

[Text] Progress on Jordan's territorial rights was by far the most clear result of last week's Wadi al-'Arabah bilateral talks with Israel despite Israelis efforts to belittle the issue, according to 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the Jordanian boundary commission to the talks.

Although some negotiators felt that Israelis were trying to "ignore the facts behind Jordan's territorial demands," Dr. Tuqan told the JORDAN TIMES that the conflict on borders was contained through Jordan's scientific and legal approach.

He added that the wording of the British mandate document defining Jordan's borders with Palestine were clear and did not warrant the argument.

The British mandate agreement between the United Kingdom and then Transjordan defines Palestine as "the area which lies to the west of a line drawn from a point two miles west of the town of al-'Aqabah on the Gulf of that name up the centre of Wadi al-'Arabah, Dead Sea and River Jordan to its junction with the River al-Yarmuk; thence up the centre of that river to the Syrian frontier," making Transjordan the area east of that line.

Whereas the mandate of Transjordan was entrusted to the British as early as July 24, 1922, the agreement was only ratified in Jerusalem in February 1928.

One negotiator told the JORDAN TIMES that although considerable progress had been achieved on the border track, the water issue still stands "in limbo."

Dr. Tuqan said that the July 18-19 Wadi al-'Arabah negotiations resulted in signing an agreement on borders in which Israel restated its commitment to accepting the British mandate document as the mainframe of addressing territorial issues between the two countries.

The Wadi al-'Arabah talks were the first to be held in the region in a tent straddling common borders. The talks addressed water, border and security issues based on the common agenda signed in Washington on Sept. 14, 1993, and the sub-agendas on borders, security and territories signed June 7, 1994.

The Jordanian negotiations over borders, Dr. Tuqan feels, have advanced a satisfactory distance towards solving the border problem, but it is a long and arduous trip and "this delicate issue" should be deal with one stage at a time to ensure accurancy and gradual flow of events.

The "boundary work" will start with forming a joint technical team of experts (JTTE) to agree on "common understandable maps" that have to be compatible to Jordan's territorial rights, he said. The JTTE will also tackle other related issues like "boundary maintenance and administration" for which a commission has been set up to "maintain consistency on territorial issues after the pace negotiations culminate in a treaty of peace."

Only after demarcation and definition of international borders is completed, the security commission will enter into military and security arrangements on and around the areas of the international borders, Dr. Tuqan asserted.

"To us in Jordan, boundaries are one of the most significant and important manifestations of territorial sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction," said Dr. Tuqan, stressing that, as stipulated in the common agenda and sub-agendas, Jordan reinforces its rights of sovereignty over its land "without prejudice to any territories that came under Israeli rule in 1967."

"I do not discuss (with Israelis) anything to do with areas of the occupied West Bank or the Palestinian self-rule areas; what we discuss is purely a Jordanian-Israeli issue—it is Jordan's right as a sovereign state," he said.

Dr. Tuqan affirmed that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty with Israel before reaching mutually satisfaction solutions on the borders and water rights.

"When we do reach a solution and an Israeli commitment to our rights, these will be incorporated into a peace treaty," Dr Tuqan affirmed.

On Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation, Dr. Tuqan said that the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral committee and the Israeli-Jordanian-U.S. trilateral committee will be moving simultaneously on the definition and implementation of joint projects.

For practical and pragmatic reasons, development projects would be concentrated in the sector of al-'Aqabah-Elat to the Dead Sea area, "simply because most of the projects lie in that area which is the longest border we share, he said.

Minister Orders Israeli Correspondents To Leave

TA2507145494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] Israeli correspondents in Amman were delivered a surprising message yesterday from the Jordanian Information Ministry: They were instructed to immediately stop their work and were asked to leave Jordan.

Nawwaf Mawla, the Jordanian deputy minister of information [name and title as published], urgently summoned the Israeli correspondents to his office and told them very firmly: "There is no peace between our countries, and the fact that you are here is only causing damage. You are helping to arm the opposition. You have to leave."

Mawla issued orders to local production companies to stop supplying technical services and crews to Israeli television correspondents. Mawla raised his voice when he said: "You have nothing to look for here. I had a meeting last night with various people and it was decided that you will not work here anymore."

The Israeli correspondents protested and stressed that he could not stop their activity. "I can do anything," Mawla said, "I can deport you, I can also put you in jail. You are in violation of Jordanian law—you have tourist visas but are working as journalists. This will continue no longer."

Mawla told us that senior officials reached the conclusion that the presence of Israeli correspondents in Amman was also causing "serious security hazards," seeing as, he asserted, radical elements could seek to harm the corredspondents. "We do not come to work in Jerusalem, so do not come to work in Amman," Mawla concluded. [passage omitted]

Parties Stage Sit-In, Voice Objection to Peace Talks

JN2507170594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Scores of citizens representing Jordanian political parties and popular, trade union, and professional organizations, as well as some deputies, staged a sit-in at al-Husayni Mosque Square in Amman this morning to express their objection to the peace process and the Arab-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli negotiations.

Bahjat Abu-Gharbiyah, official spokesman for the protesters, delivered a speech in which he voiced the protesters' objection to the peace process and its developments.

Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, asserted that the Front was not against the peace process but against the Zionist enemy.

Mrs. Emili Naffa', member of the Political Bureau of the Jordanian Communist Party, asserted that the party supports comprehensive and just peace for the Palestine question, as well as the return of the Jordanian territorial and water rights. But, she said, the party refuses to recognize any Israeli right to the waters of the Jordan River and al-Yarmuk River because these waters are Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian.

Islamists To Continue To Protest

JN2607095494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 94, pp 1, 12

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—On what the opposition declared a day of "national mourning" there were no black flags in the streets of the capital. Nor were there signs of any popular anger about His Majesty King Husayn's first public meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The only exception to the normalcy of life in the capital and other cities in the Kingdom was a one-hour sit-in in downtown Amman attended by about 200 representatives of eight political parties and some professional unions.

The sit-in, which followed a week of fiery statements by the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and other leftists and pan-Arab parties urging the mobilization of the people against what they called the subjugation to Israel and American dictates, represented a "symbolic opposition" to the latest developments in the peace process.

The sit-in declared Monday a "black day in the history of our nation." But its organisers presented no evidence that this view is shared by the majority of the Jordanian people. All indications in the capital Monday were that the people did not see in the Washington summit the gloomy implications that the opposition tried to propagate.

IAF sources say they opted for this "symbolic opposition" to show the government that they can voice their rejection of the developments in the peace process in a "constitutional, legal and civilised way."

Analysts, however, say the Islamists and other opposition parties opted for low profile expression of their stand to avoid direct, and definitely losing, confrontation with the regime, especially that the king is personally involved in the negotiations. [sentence as published]

By restricting their opposition to fiery statements, which reached a limited number of people, and the short lived sit-in in Amman, the Islamists were making a stand for history, observers say.

By issuing the statements, the opposition can say they took a stand against the peace talks in harmony with their rejection of peace with Israel; and by limiting their opposition to a symbolic one, they avoided a confrontation with the regime.

Though they attacked the government for preventing the "other point of view from reaching the people," the opposition said the government did not interfere in the sit-in though it showed reservations about its time and place.

IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur told the JORDAN TIMES the decision to restrict the sit-in to one of "symbols and not a popular rally" was taken by the leadership of the parties that organised it.

But in a sign of the division among the Islamists on how to react to the Washington summit, hawkish IAF Deputy Hammam Sa'id charged the "government did everything to prevent the sit-in from materialising."

Despite assertions by Mr. Mansur that the opposition has "a programme for its activities to express its rejection" of what is happening on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace negotiations, Dr. Sa'id said the "opposition's reaction does not correspond with the gravity and seriousness of the event," which he described as "a catastrophe."

"Failing to increase the opposition to this national catastrophe is the historic responsibility fo the leadership of all parties and political movements in the Kingdom" Dr. Sa'id said.

But Mr. Mansur asserted that the opposition was moving within a clear programme which would use different forms to voice its position as the peace process continues.

"The opposition did not want to mobilise its supporters today. It wanted a symbolic expression of its position and this is not the end of it," Mr. Mansur said.

He said the objective of Monday's sit-in was to refute the government's "claim that the majority of the Jordanian people are behind the talks."

"When you have the representatives of eight political parties and professional unions protesting the talks, it means not all the people are behind them," said Mr. Mansur.

Mr. Mansur said the Islamists will continue to protest the peace negotiations with Israel in all available legal and constitutional manners as IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan said normalisation with Israel will not occur even if hundreds of accords are signed.

The IAF's stress on "constitutional opposition" was seen as a sign of maturity by the Islamists.

"The ideological, idealistic and other opposition groups responded to the democratic change with great responsibility and flexible pragmatism that denounced violence and adopted realism without compromising their principles," prominent Deputy 'Abd al- Karim al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES.

"You find the leadership of the Islamist acting in a flexible and realistic manner and with a great deal of political responsibility," he said.

Supporters of the peace process emphasise "realism" when they explain the reaction of the Islamists to the Washington summit.

When it comes to the King, observers say, there is no mistaking on whose side the people will stand; they are behind the King. The silent majority is supportive of the peace process observers said citing the business-as-usual state of affairs in the Kingdom Monday as a proof.

King Husayn acknowledged the stand of the people in the White House yesterday.

"At this moment, I would like to share with you all the pride I have in my people, the people of Jordan, and their maturity and their courage and, in what I believe I have been blessed with, their trust and confidence and I believe the commitment of the overwhelming majority to the cause of peace," King Husayn said at the South Lawn of the White House after signing the Washington Declaration.

Damascus Reportedly Turns Down High-Level Visit

JN2507170894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that his majesty the king on Wednesday [20 July] telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to explain some of the reasons and motives for his meeting with Rabin in Washington, and his decision to accelerate the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Official Jordanian sources told AL-MAJD that the king's telephone call came in place of a visit which a high-level Jordanian delegation was scheduled to make to Damascus, which declined to receive the delegation without giving any reasons.

Importers To Pay Some Fees for Lloyds Presence

JN2507104894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian importers will pay around JD 1 per every tonne of goods coming to them through the port of al-'Aqabah as the cost of land-based verification of Jordan's adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq, informed sources said Sunday [24 July].

Separate tariffs are set for different kinds of cargo depending on the nature of packing, whether containerised or bulk cargo, and key items such as foodstuffs, medicine etc. are exempt from paying the charge, the sources said.

The levy will go to pay for the cost of the presence of Lloyds Register surveyors at al-'Aqabah under an agreement signed here last week between the Ports Corporation and the London-based international organisation.

"It will be an average JD 1 per tonne under a set of tariffs drawn up by the Ports Corporation and the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA) and sent to the government for approval" one source told the JORDAN TIMES.

However, the per-tonne levy will apply only to general cargo while the charge for containerised cargo will be around an average of JD 25 per 20-foot container which normally holds around 18 tonnes, the source added.

"These rates are not final since they have to be approved by the government."

However, the "verification" fees are a far cry from the hundreds of dollars that shipowners charge extra for Jordan-bound cargo to make up for the potential delays caused by the affshore inspections by American warships, $50 each 20-foot container, $1,000 per 40-foot container and $15 per tonne of loose cargo.

According to the sources, the Ports Corporation will remit the collected levy to a special U.N. escrow account directly under the control of the secretariat, which will then pay Lloyds Register.

"These arragement will help Jordan establish a firm evidence of its payment, which it could claim from the U.N." through a special Gulf war reparation fund set up by the world body, the source said.

The sources said the U.N. was expected to issue a statement soon endorsing the concept of the landbased verification regime at al-'Aqabah and the Jordan-Lloyds agreement after the Jordanian cabinet approves it.

"We are anxious to have as much formal background to the arrangement as possible," added another source, explaining that the offshore "interdictions" carried out by U.S. warships since the imposition of sanctions against Iraq in August 1990 did not "actually have a legal status."

"But, with the changed situation now, it is essential that the land-based verification regime is formal and endorsed by all parties concerned" added the source. "This will preempt any move in the future to change the arrangement."

Washington, the most ardent advocate of continued sanctions against Iraq, is fully briefed on the various apsects of the Jordan- Lloyds arrangement and was directly and indirectly involved in the negotiations that led to the conclusion of the deal, the source said, adding: "The accord was actually deferred several times pending U.S. approval of its various provisions."

Two or three senior officials from Lloyds Register are expected here Tuesday to "scout the ground and set up the mechanisms for their work and logistics for their work," said another source. The surveying firm has already conducted preparatory work at al-'Aqabah and have chalked out the proceedings of verification.

In essence, Lloyds Register representatives will be included in the regular teams that are formed by the Ports Corporation, the Customs Department and the concerned clearing agents as well as health authorities as warranted to inspect goods coming into Jordan as part of the Kingdom's regulations on imports.

Along with the team, the surveyors, who are expected to begin their operations sometimes next month, will verify that the goods conform to the relevant invoices, bill of lading and other documents and make their reports to the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

"Beyond this observation, the Lloyds people will have no other role in the context of goods imported to Jordan," said an official, emphasising the world "observation."

"Jordan is under no sanctions and it is free to import whatever it wants," added the official.

Goods coming through al-'Aqabah and destined for Iraq will be treated different. No Iraq-bound cargo except food and medicine will be allowed to leave the port of al-'Aqabah without proper authorisation from the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

It was not immediately known when Washington would actually call off the warships now patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the sanctions against Iraq. But it is expected that some of the frigates will remain in the area for some time while others might move to the Gulf, closer to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr.

Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company Ends Meetings

JN2307195694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] The minutes of the annual meeting of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company were signed at the Ministry of Transportation today.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Following the meetings of the general assembly of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company, which focused on the performance of the company and putting it into an institutionalized framework, the minutes of the company's meetings were signed with the aim of boosting the performance of the company, shaking up its administration, and overhauling its fleet.

[Transportation Minister Samir Qa'war] During these meetings, we reviewed the company's achievements during the past year. We drew up plans that would raise the company to a higher level in the next few years. These plans and strategies were very clear. They will be fully supported by the Jordanian and Iraqi sides in order to improve the company's future performance.

[Correspondent] Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, emphasized the need to boost the company's performance in order to offer full services for both countries.

[Khalil] We seek to improve this company and increase its current fleet of about 420 trucks by 100 new trucks which were bought to augment the fleet. As I said, we will try to increase this fleet by all possible means to serve land transport between Iraq and Jordan, especially since the Port of al-'Aqabah will remain an important port for trade between the two countries. [end recording]

U.S. Said Dissatisfied With Leniency Toward Iraq

JN2507191194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Finance Minister Sami Qammuh was dropped from the Jordanian delegation to the Washington talks in response to a U.S. hint accusing the minister of leniency toward trade links with Iraq.

Informed sources told AL-MAJD that Washington accuses Minister Qammuh of not complying fully with the UN instructions regarding issues of trade licenses and exports from, or via Jordan to Iraq.

It is worth mentioning that apart from the Jordanian-Israeli meeting, the greater part of the Washington talks concerns financial and commercial issues.

Crown Prince Receives Turkish Parliamentarians

JN2307172994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, today received Dr. Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign

Affairs Committee at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and the parliamentary delegation accompanying him. Discussions during the meeting centered on Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in all areas, particularly parliamentary cooperation following a visit to Turkey last June by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation during which it met with a number of officials and official and popular figures. Both sides reviewed current Middle East issues, especially developments in the peace process in the region.

The Turkish delegation praised the big role played by Jordan to achieve peace, which would bring security, progress, and prosperity to the entire Middle East region and promote regional cooperation in order to achieve progress for the region and its people.

The Turkish parliamentary delegation is represented by a number of parties and parliamentary blocs at the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

Al-Hindawi Meets Delegation

JN2407140094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Mr. Dhuqan al-Hindawi, acting prime minister, received in his office at the Prime Ministry today Mr. Erdan Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and his delegation. They talked about cooperation between Jordan and Turkey and looked into ways to boost their ties in all spheres, with special emphasis on economic and cultural areas and parliamentary cooperation.

They also discussed Middle East developments, particularly with regard to developments in the peace process.

Mr. Inonu, representing a number of political parties and parliamentary blocs in Turkey, said after the meeting: We expressed our good wishes and appreciation for the king, government, and people of Jordan. We expressed the hope that the negotiations will secure Jordan's territorial and water rights and that the peace process will produce a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. We are heartened by the recent developments in the peace process, especially on the Jordanian track. We are watching closely His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to the United States and the speech he will address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

We also talked about Jordan's democratic march and our economic, cultural, commercial, and touristic links and looked into ways to spur the private sector into mutual investment.

The Turkish parliamentary team also told the acting prime minister they hoped the Iraqi sanctions will be lifted soon.

The session was attended by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs, together with a number of House of Representatives members and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

The Turkish delegation also called on Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, in his office today.

The sides reviewed bilateral ties and considered how they could be developed. The minister updated Mr. Inonu and his delegation on the Middle East peace process, pointing to the Washington summit grouping His Majesty King Husayn, Bill Clinton, and Yitzhaq Rabin to propel the peace process forward. He noted that his majesty the king's and Crown Prince hasan's visit to Turkey had helped further ties. The minister said Jordan was a factor for stability in the region.

For his part, Mr. Inonu commended Jordan's regional role under His Majesty King Husayn.

Al-Hariri Returns; Minister on Jordan-Israel Deal

NC2607055594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned home from Damascus yesterday after holding talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Arriving in Beirut, al-Hariri visited the Presidential Palace and briefed President al-Hirawi on the results of his meeting with Khaddam. Al-Hariri telephoned Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and briefed him on the Damascus talks.

Al-Hariri earlier met Syrian Vice President Khaddam in Damascus and they reviewed current developments on the Lebanese and regional levels and in the peace process. They resumed their discussions over a working lunch attended by senior Syrian officials. The talks focused on the stage to follow the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Agreement.

On the effects the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement will have on Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, Information Minister Michel Samahah said:

[Begin Samahah recording] The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Agreement will have a general effect on the substance of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. It will have no direct or particular effect on the Lebanese-Israeli track. But Jordan's departure from Arab solidarity and from the unified Arab position on the negotiations may harm the restoration of Arab rights within the framework of the negotiations that the Arabs and Lebanon have entered. [end recording]

Dallul Refuses Normalization With Israel

NC2507115594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has refused to normalize ties with an enemy that occupies our land. He stressed that we will remain as steadfast in times of peace as we have in times of war. He added: We will not agree to a separate or unilateral solution. In cooperation and coordination with Syria, we will confront all forces that seek to harm us.

Dallul criticized the international circles that have failed to honor their promises to Lebanon, have not offered the promised aid, and have instead pressured it to participate in the multilateral talks and dismantle its strategic bond with Syria. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader Says Resistance Stronger

MM2507145694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Nasrallah: We Will Shell Colonies If Our People Continue To Be Bombarded"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Hizballah yesterday celebrated the first anniversary of the victims of the seven-day aggression (operation settling of scores) launched by Israel in southern Lebanon a year ago. The celebration was held in Ra's al-Nab' (Beirut) and was attended by a number of deputies, Arab ambassadors, an Army representative, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and party officials, first and foremost Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, as well as Lebanese party officials and representatives of Palestinian factions.

The celebration began with a speech by Deputy Najah Wakim. Then Nasrallah spoke. He recalled "Lebanon's steadfastness, with its towering resistance and proud people, in the face of the war and its emergence triumphant without allowing the Zionist enemy to impose any conditions on it. In fact it imposed its conditions on the enemy." He wondered: "Did the enemy manage to annihilate or disarm Hizballah or halt resistance operations in the seven-day war? No."

He added: "Shelling the colonies in north Palestine with rockets is not the resistance's strategy. The resistance adopted that method as a reaction and a deterrent to prevent the enemy from bombarding civilians." He went on: "At the end of the seven-day war Israel was subjected to the resistance's methods and conditions, namely what was later called the July understanding, about which suspicions were aroused and attempts were made to harm the Islamic resistance and its honesty by saying that it had concluded a deal and that it would halt its operations...but the reply was swift." He listed a number of operations "targeting Israeli forces." He said: "Today, as in the past, if the Israeli enemy begins to bombard our cities and villages, the resistance will begin to shell the colonies. It will choose the time, place, and circumstances. The wise resistance refuses in some circumstances to be dragged into a war timed by the enemy. It always reserves the right to retaliate."

He said that the resistance "is now stronger than a year ago," pointing out that a number of lessons have been learned from the Israeli aggression "over which we achieved a considerable victory through the resistance's steadfastness, our people's patience, and the great national rallying around the resistance and its steadfastness at the Lebanese level, except for the Israeli groups that were lying in wait for Lebanon and its people. But, praise be to God, their leader has ended in prison (he seems to refer to Dr. Samir Ja'ja', leader of the outlawed Lebanese Forces). This is in addition to Syria's and Iran's support for this small country." He pointed out that "the resistance then surmounted the mines laid by the various seditions fomented against it." He also pointed to the "attempt by some people to instigate the Army against the resistance and to make secret pledges and commitments to the enemy and the U.S. broker and partner which could have destroyed Lebanon and its achievements had it not been for the wisdom of the wise people."

He said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was the fruit of the July war and that the 13 September demonstration on the airport road was aimed at saying that "there are in Lebanon people who exercise opposition and criticism—people who can describe the person who went to the White House—I mean (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat—as a traitor."

He said that 'Arafat's presence in Gaza today is like being in a "big prison." He criticized the self-rule, pointing to "the continued pressures on Syria and Lebanon." He criticized the endeavors made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who he said "is going to Damascus to persuade President Hafiz al-Asad to take new positions and measures or to reconsider his way of handling the settlement issue." He said that in its recent move Jordan "is receiving a bribe openly"—a reference to its disregard for religion.

Commenting on the Israeli threats and accusations against Iran and Hizballah following the Buenos Aires explosion, he said that "the enemy must understand that the threats of crushing heads, murder, and annihilation will not work with our people, kinfolk, and resistance, because we are continuing our jihad, resistance, steadfastness, resoluteness, and sacrifices." He added: "If Israel is threatening to kill so-and-so from among us, these people are looking for nothing except martyrdom for God's sake." Concluding, he stressed that "the road of martyrs will be followed until victory or martyrdom."

The celebration was concluded by a speech delivered by Fadlallah, who said that "in our recent history we have managed as a people to triumph politically over Israel. Because it has not been able to achieve its aims or to maintain its composure before the resistance's defiance." He said that "Israel was defeated in its criminal move last July." He stressed "the need not to harm our people's awareness under the influence of the psychological war launched by the arrogant world."

Ansarallah Leader Reportedly Questioned

NC2507143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 25 Jul (MENA)—Officials at the Argentine Embassy in Beirut today refused to comment on reports that the Argentine Government has recalled its ambassador in Beirut Juan Angel Faraldo for consultations regarding the explosion at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires last week. Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources have also refused to confirm or deny this report.

Diplomatic sources expect the real developments in this matter to become clear within the next few hours in light of the Israeli and Argentine Governments' accusation that Hizballah was behind the explosion at the Jewish center and the effect this will have on the Lebanese-Argentine relations.

Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has reiterated his denial of the Israeli charges and strongly denied any Hizballah link to the incident. He stressed that there is no evidence or proof of these charges.

Speaking at a popular meeting yesterday, Nasrallah said that Yitzhaq Rabin must understand that the stage of threatening to crush skulls is long gone. He affirmed that the struggle against the Israeli occupation forces will continue until Israel withdraws from all the Lebanese territory in the south.

Press reports said today that the Lebanese security services have managed to arrest the person who distributed the statement in the name of the Ansarallah Movement in Sidon, in southern Lebanon, last Friday [22 July], which announced the movement's responsibility for the explosion at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

Security sources, which declined to give this person's name or identity, said it has become apparent that this person has long had ties with the Israeli Mosad.

Informed sources noted the Lebanese officials' interest in finding out who is behind the issuance of this statement. These sources cited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri as saying that the statement issued by the so-called Ansarallah Movement is suspicious, and that those who prepared it work for Israel.

According to reports, the Lebanese security services have conducted intensive interrogation of the leader of this movement, Jamal Sulayman, a Palestinian who has left the Fatah Movement. He denied any connection to this statement. Sulayman informed the Lebanese security services that the person who distributed the statement has no connection with the Ansarallah Movement, which was established in 1987 after breaking away from the Fatah Movement.

Argentine Ambassador Leaves for Buenos Aires

NC2507165294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 25 Jul (MENA)—Argentine Ambassador to Lebanon Juan Angel Faraldo left Beirut this afternoon for Buenos Aires.

Lebanese official sources said that Ambassador Faraldo only informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that he is leaving Beirut.

The Argentine ambassador did not make any statement before his departure nor did the Lebanese Foreign Ministry make any comment about his departure.

Hizballah Reported on 'Maximum Alert' in South

NC2607123194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Severe tension is prevailing in south Lebanon as a result of continuing Israeli acts of aggression against several areas in the central and eastern sectors. The Israeli enemy and the resistance have exchanged fire.

The resistance retaliated against the indiscriminate Israeli shelling that continued until noon today.

Police sources in al-Nabatiyah today said that the Israeli occupation army isolated two villages near the occupied border area. The sources said that 30 Israeli personnel, a Merkava tank, and a bulldozer set up an earth rampart 2 km from the central sector on the road linking Yuhmur and Arnun in al-Nabatiyah, isolating 180 families in Yuhmur and 73 families in Arnun. The Israeli forces used loudspeakers to warn the inhabitants of Yuhmur not to roam in the village's main or side streets from 1200 today until further notice.

At 0800 today, an armored force composed of two vehicles and 10 personnel belonging to Agent Antoine Lahd crossed the contact line in the Hasbayya area and advanced 2 km toward the Mimis axis north of the occupied strip, raking the area until 1000. The force then returned to its position. Immediately afterward, Lebanese Army units located in the north of Mimis were put on the alert.

In the Kawkaba area, a Lahdist militia force comprising four vehicles and 40 personnel carried out a large-scale raking operation on the outskirts of Kawkaba, Suq al-Khan, the al-Dallafah bridge, and Burghuz, indiscriminately firing bursts of machine-gun fire into the air.

According to sources inside the occupied border strip, the Israeli Army brought in 20 Merkava tanks and 12 75-mm artillery pieces in the past 24 hours and stationed them on the (al-Dardarah) plain near al-Khiyam. [passage omitted]

Israeli helicopters overflew the Marj 'Uyun area. Big fires broke out in the vineyards around the occupied township of Dayr Mimas during the clashes between the resistance men and the Israeli forces yesterday. [passage omitted].

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1147 GMT on 26 July adds the following: "The Iranian-backed Hizballah was on maximum alert Tuesday amid Israeli warnings of 'painful' reprisals for Monday's attacks that killed an Israeli officer and wounded 13 soldiers.

["Hizballah disclosed that a guerrilla was killed in one of the attacks in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon. Five Lebanese civilians were also reported wounded in artillery duels that followed.

["The Shiite Muslim group went on maximum alert overnight Monday and several guerrilla leaders evacuated their homes in fear of reprisals, security sources in the al-Biqa' Valley said."]

Exchanges of Fire, Katyushas Reported in South

TA2507153494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Fierce exchanges of fire are currently taking place in the eastern sector in south Lebanon between terrorists and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that 13 katyusha rockets were fired a short time ago at the security zone.

IDF Officer Killed; 13 Soldiers Wounded

TA2607045094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] In an attack on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in south Lebanon, an Israeli soldier, Lieutenant Shay Walstein, 22, of Hadera, has been killed. Thirteen others were wounded in the attack. Senior Army officers say it was deliberately timed to coincide with the White House meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

The attacks at at least six different locations in south Lebanon began at 1630 [1330 GMT] yesterday afternoon, minutes before Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn shook hands in Washington. A line of Israeli Army vehicles travelling into Lebanon was ambushed some 2 km north of the Good Fence. Gunmen fired Sagger missiles, mortars, and automatic weapons at the army vehicles, which were on their way to al-Izziyah in the eastern sector of Israel's security zone. A major in the Giv'ati Brigade was hit by one of the missiles and seriously wounded.

At the same time, gunmen opened fire on five Israeli and SLA positions in the eastern and central sectors of the security zone. In some cases, Sagger and katyusha missiles were fired. An Israeli officer, 22-year-old Lieutenant Shay Walstein of Hadera, was killed in one of the assaults 2 km from the Israeli border. The gunmen also tried to overrun an SLA position, but were fought off by Israeli and SLA soldiers. In all, 13 Israeli soldiers were injured. Israeli troops returned fire, pounding Hizballah positions with over 250 shells. Air Force planes also blasted Hizballah targets in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Members of Hizballah announced that the attack was timed to coincide with the first anniversary of Israel's large-scale operation in Lebanon last year, but senior Israeli officers say there is no doubt the timing also had something to do with the summit in Washington. The officers say clearly the attacks were carried out with Syrian approval.

Israeli Fighter Planes Attack Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2507182194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1805 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out two air strikes against Mlita ridges and al-Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1955 today. The Israeli aircraft fired four air-to-surface missiles at targets.

Round-Up of Attacks

NC2507175494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] According to reports from the south, the areas of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Khirbat Silm, and Shaqra are under violent bombardment. A huge fire broke out in the fields of Khirbat Silm as a result and the civil defense teams are trying to put out the fire. Moreover, helicopter sorties are reported over these villages.

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation troops resumed their aggression on Iqlim al-Tuffah by shelling its townships almost continuously from midnight last night until this morning. The men of the resistance were compelled to respond, inflicting heavy material and human losses on the enemy and its agents.

Our correspondent 'Ali Dawud details the Israeli aggression and resistance operations.

[Dawud] The occupation troops escalated their aggression this afternoon, bombarding several villages in al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah with artillery fire, while reinforcements were brought in , according to the agent militia's [South Lebanese Army] radio.

At 1630 today, the occupation artillery stationed in Qal'at al-Shaqif bombarded Yuhmur, al-Shaqif, Arnun, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' with 155-mm artillery. The bombardment continued until 1730 and caused a fire in the olive groves between Mazra'at al-Hamra' and Arnun, which spread to the western outskirts of Yuhmur. The bombardment coincided with attacks with machine guns that reached the main Arnun-Yuhmur road and the outskirts of the above-mentioned townships.

At 1640, the occupation artillery stationed in al-Dabshah bombarded the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman, the area surrounding the Lebanese Army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah, and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. The shelling continued for 30 minutes and was accompanied by attacks against al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Jabal al-Rafi', and Mlita in Iqlim al-Tuffah from occupation positions in al- Zaffatah.

At 1730, the Israeli shelling extended to the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi.

According to eyewitnesses, the occupation troops shelled the area surrounding their position in Qal'at al-Shaqif and the outskirts of the occupied township of Mimas. Large areas planted with pine trees caught fire and heavy clouds of smoke covered the skies.

Israeli warplanes flew low-altitude sorties over the south and conducted mock raids before noon today. The Israeli artillery in al-Zaffatah shelled the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah after midnight last night. The bombardment involved several villages in the area.

In another development, the Islamic Resistance announced in a statement it has distributed that on the first anniversary of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon last July, groups of the Islamic Resistance this afternoon attacked an Israeli enemy convoy deep in the occupied strip 3 kilometers from the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine—near an area known as Tall al-Nahas-Dayr Mimas. The statement said that the convoy was heading from occupied Palestine to the border strip. Two Reo trucks and two command cars were totally destroyed and many passengers were either killed or wounded.

According to the Islamic Resistance statement, other groups attacked enemy positions on Tall al-Nahas, al-Tayyibah, al-'Izziyah, and Qal'at al-Shaqif.

[Announcer] At 1820 today, al-Qantarah came under 120-mm artillery bombardment from occupation and agent positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah.

Meanwhile, the township of Frun has been under violent artillery bombardment since 1700. More than 200 shells had fallen as of 1800; the bombardment is continuing.

An officer in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has reported that a UN position in Qabrikha came under fire. There are no reports of injuries. The officer reports an exchange of fire is taking place at present between the Resistance and Israeli and agent positions in al-Qantarah, al-Tayyibah, and Qal'at Shaqif.

'Awn Says Return Depends on 'Syria's Intentions'

MM2507133494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: " 'Awn: Junblatt Threatening War, When He Fears His Own Shadow"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—General Michel 'Awn has said that his return to Lebanon "depends on Syria's intentions toward Lebanon." He stressed that the agreement that led to his exile "is unconstitutional, and I do not approve of it." [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Gen. 'Awn replied yesterday to the repeated calls from Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri for him to return to Lebanon, especially Birri's statement the day before yesterday that it was 'Awn "who sought refuge at the French Embassy, and an agreement took place later. I voted against it at the Council of Ministers..., and it is possible to amend or abolish the agreement."

'Awn said: "In my response to that I must proceed from two points. First, I agreed on nothing, nor did I agree with anyone on anything. In the first place I did not go to the embassy at my own wish. I was asked to go as a condition for a cease-fire. [passage omitted]

"Second, my return to Lebanon depends on Syria's intentions toward Lebanon. If Damascus is seeking direct relations with Lebanon as an independent state, let it hold a direct dialogue, not through mediation. But if it is seeking relations with Lebanon as a state with deficient sovereignty, it is better for it not to engage in a dialogue, either directly or through mediation, and to let each party operate according to its convictions, because time will determine who is right and who is wrong."

'Awn added: "Conditions for my return are specified in the recommendations adopted by the national conference held in Paris, namely the formation of a coalition government to work to withdraw non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, draw up a new election law, and hold free parliamentary elections under UN supervision from which a national authority representing the Lebanese people would emerge." [passage omitted]

'Awn said: "[Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid] Junblatt wants to impose a kind of Christian representation. He believes that our leaderships are formed through inheritance—a new mistake into which he has fallen because he inherited leadership and thus wants to apply this model to others who have never in their life believed in anything else but free choice at all levels." He wondered: "Does he in the first place represent the Druze for him to offer us shaky theories—like his personality—about Maronite and Christian representation? And is Junblatt going so far in his spite against Maronites and others to evade certain obligations? How can someone who fears his own shadow fight?"

'Awn pointed out that Junblatt "is always subservient to powers. He believes that he is weaker in peace than in war and thus wants to recover a past built on the illusion of power." [passage omitted]

Syria

Clinton Phones al-Asad on 'U.S. Commitment'

JN2607101994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a phone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday in which they discussed the Middle East peace process. President Clinton reiterated the U.S. commitment to a comprehensive solution in the region. Talks also dealt with efforts to advance the peace process in the region.

Damascus TV Carries Washington Summit Speeches

JN2507181994

[Editorial Report] Damascus Television Network in Arabic on 25 July, in its regularly scheduled 1730 GMT newscast, carries as its second item extensive coverage of the proceedings of the three-way summit in Washington with President Clinton, Jordan's King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. All the speeches made by the three leaders before and after the signing of the Washington Declaration, as well as footage showing them signing the document, are shown with Arabic subtitles.

Information Minister Discusses Peace Efforts

NC2507091394 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 82-83

[Interview with Information Minister Muhammad Salman by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] How do you interpret Israel's statements about its need for a strong army?

[Salman] This is nothing new for Israel. Yitzhaq Rabin is not alone in saying this. Israeli army commanders keep repeating the same thing and hinting at military action. None of this is new for Syria. All that is being said is meant to pressure Syria. The threat of military action is aimed at forcing Syria to give in. The Israelis want Syria to retreat and cede some of its rights and land. Such is the rhetoric used repeatedly by Israeli leaders.

Let me state here that regardless of the methods used by Israel and the threats it makes, military or political, Syria will insist on its rights, will demand the implementation of international legitimacy, and will not relinquish one inch of its land. If Israel wants peace, it must withdraw fully from the Golan.

[Al-Sa'id] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is currently touring the region. What do you hope this tour will produce? Israel has been criticizing Syria's reliance on the U.S. role and its refusal to hold direct negotiations with Israel.

[Salman] On his last visit to Damascus, Secretary Christopher heard the same position he heard on previous tours, namely, that UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 should be implemented. This is Syria's unshifting and unalterable position.

As for the current tour by the U.S. secretary, we hope it will produce something new, something that could push the peace process forward. But any new development will depend on Israel, the intransigent side to date. It procrastinates and wastes time because it hopes to foil U.S. efforts and deprive the region of peace. Israel is placing obstacles on the road toward peace.

In contrast, the Syrian position is clear. Syria wants peace and is ready to discuss every issue within the framework of its national sovereignty, international legitimacy, and the underlying foundation of the peace process on which we and the United States agreed.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that you hope Christopher will exert pressure on Israel to make it implement the resolutions of international legitimacy?

[Salman] Since its Madrid initiative in 1991, the U.S. Administration has been committed to making serious efforts to establish peace in the region. So it is the party that should devise appropriate methods and ideas leading to Israel's acceptance of peace and to the region becoming a safe and stable area. Peace will benefit every nation, not only in this region, but worldwide.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Israeli talk of Syria's armament rates?

[Salman] Israel can always propose any ideas and give any pretexts to invert realities and mislead the world through its penetration of U.S. media, AIPAC [U.S.-Israeli Public Affairs Committee], and other foreign information media. And Israel wields influence in the U.S. Congress, which adopts the Israeli position. Many U.S. Congress members are influenced by Zionist lobby pressure and the misleading Israeli media. This sympathy with Israel helps this misinformation spread on a large scale inside U.S. society and also in the international arena.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel is demanding that the settlements in the Golan remain under Israeli sovereignty and that Israel refrain from withdrawal from the Golan in the initial stages of normalizing ties. What do you think of the Israeli demand?

[Salman] This means that Israel wants both land and peace at the same time. When Syria calls for peace, it means that the region should be free of all types of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, which Israel alone possesses in the region. Israel always uses these methods: It makes military threats and puts forward its demands, which means that it wants the land. Making such proposals and calling for peace at the same time is designed to hamper the peace process and evade compliance with and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. So when Syria hears such talk it refuses to discuss it and will not discuss it unless Israel proposes total withdrawal from Syrian territory first and foremost.

[Al-Sa'id] Shim'on Peres said recently that his country conveyed to Syria several interesting proposals on security, peace, and regional concessions, but Syria did not respond. What are these proposals?

[Salman] Everything Israel is presenting falls within the framework of its desire to enter into the normalization stage before accepting or addressing the main principle, that is, withdrawal from Syrian and Lebanese territory. Israel depends on meeting high hopes by pushing for separate deals with the other Arab parties, who were standing in one line at the start of the peace initiative and the Madrid conference in October 1991. What Israel is trying to do is give the impression that Syria is alone now and that all the parties have moved. This means that what is required of Syria is to abandon its firm stances to break its isolation. But Syria will continue to adhere to its rights and firm stances, defend its territory, deal with international resolutions with full respect, and abide by international legality. It will neither retract nor concede any part of its territory, no matter what methods or proposals are used and regardless of Israeli threats. This is because peace does not concern Syria alone; it is an international issue that concerns all the states—not just the Security Council members, but the member states of the General Assembly—that need to work together to achieve peace everywhere, including in the Middle East. Recent years have proven that lack of stability anywhere could affect world peace and the international situation. We now believe that Israel's persistent attempts to thwart the U.S. initiative, thus frustrating the U.S. Administration's efforts to boost the peace process, are issues that concern the dignity of the U.S. Administration and the U.S. decision.

[Al-Sa'id] On what is Syria gambling in acting so leisurely regarding the talks, knowing that preparations for U.S. elections will begin next year and that the Israeli Labor government may be replaced by a Likud one?

[Salman] Syria is not wagering. The Syrian position is very clear. This clarity is based, first, on international legitimacy. It is also based on the strength of the Syrian people, who are unanimously united under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. This is the unified position of the Syrian and Lebanese nations. The Syrian economy is also a major source of strength for Syria and for national solidarity within Syria.

Syrian national life is that of a country with an integral social system that is fully behind the leader. Syria is facing the world with one position, one policy, and a self-sufficient system.

There is international and particularly Arab support for Syria. Everyone backs Syrian demands to restore all its land. We have not heard one statement, from the Arabs or anyone else, calling on Syria to relinquish its land.

Syria has repeatedly stated its position. Syria hopes and works for peace. It therefore wants Israel to withdraw fully from the Golan in implementation of UN resolutions. Syria supports a comprehensive peace in the region, a prospect that should be backed by a true desire for peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that you are not concerned about the prospect of a Likud government replacing the current Labor one in Israel?

[Salman] We see Israeli policy as a continuum, whether Likud or Labor is in power. We saw more Israeli expansion under Labor than Likud. The differences seen within Israel are, for us, aspects of the same policy of expansion at the expense of the Arabs. Israel wants to usurp the rights of the Arab people; it did so in the past and continues to do so. Israel, in religious rhetoric as well as political theory, still looks forward to the establishment of Greater Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] In light of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's current tour of the region, I would like to ask: What is required of the United States in particular as a cosponsor of the peace process and as an honest broker?

[Salman] What is required is very clear: Honoring the pledges and obligations it made, implementing its overtures, and effectively playing the role of a full and honest partner. This does not mean putting pressure on Israel, as particular parties try to interpret this issue from this narrow angle. It means the United States should not leave the international resolutions unimplemented or liable to Israeli blackmail and bargaining to evade the UN resolutions. We hope Christopher's tour will produce positive signs and demonstrate that the U.S. deeds would match U.S. statements on activating the peace process and extricating the Washington talks form the impasse they reached as a result of Israeli stalling and intransigence.

[Al-Sa'id] U.S. President Bill Clinton said that 1994 will be the year of peace. In light of current developments, do you think this year will indeed be one of peace or that things might take a different turn?

[Salman] I think that after making tnis statement at the Geneva summit in January, President Clinton was exposed to distorting and doubt-casting campaigns by the Zionist lobby worldwide. Israel was not satisfied with the atmosphere that prevailed at the Geneva summit or with its outcome. It cast doubts, issued calumny, and showed reservations to circumvent the outcome of the Geneva summit, avoid the requirements of the peace process, and dilute the serious international endeavors, particularly those by the United States, to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. Even President Clinton came under pressure from the Zionist lobby and the Israelis throughout the United States, generating confusion in the U.S. Administration. President Clinton's statement was rejected by the Israeli party through the usual twisted means that Israel follows when it must deal with an issue. Israel does not deal with issues directly but tries to skirt, stall, and cast doubt. Israel peddled this campaign through the information media under its influence, not directly. The Israelis showed no reservations in anything they said. They let the Israeli influence run its course through particular U.S. media organs. They published reports on President Clinton on behalf of the American people, criticizing his integrity and honesty; the campaign even reached his wife. Generally speaking, we believe the U.S. Administration continues to exert great efforts to establish peace in the region. From what we have seen, Israel does not want peace; it wants to hinder and abort the U.S. Administration's mission and to abort the U.S. Secretary of State's current mission. It does not want to say this clearly and in public but in a twisted way. Again we say: If Israel indeed desires peace, why does it not withdraw from the Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially as peace, for Syria, is an irreversible strategic option?

AL-THAWRAH Views 'Israeli Propaganda'

JN2307091794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The U.S. Responsibility," AL-THAWRAH today discusses the hostile Israeli policy toward peace and Israel's maneuvering, procrastination, and evasion of this process and its requirements.

AL-THAWRAH says: In order to implement its hostile policy toward peace, Rabin's government has sought to shun the role of the United States as a peace process sponsor and to limit that role to setting dates for negotiations. It has sought to deceive international public opinion into believing that it seeks to achieve peace. It has suggested that the Gaza-Jericho agreement has ended the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the absence of an Arab media effort, many states have been deceived by the Israeli propaganda on the advent of peace in the region. These states have hastened to open their doors, which were previously closed before Israel, under the pretext that peace has arrived and that the adversaries have reached agreement.

AL-THAWRAH then discusses Israel's conduct during the talks with the Arab states, saying that Israel has attempted to divert the talks from their set course and from their terms of reference. It then has sought to terminate coordination among Arab states and to spread the seeds of doubts among them to force them to sign separate and partial deals on Israeli terms.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As a result, the self-rule agreement, which annulled the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and gave legitimacy to continued occupation, was reached. Rabin's government thinks that with that feeble self-rule it can turn all Palestinian fighters, who were fighting to liberate land and regain rights, into policemen, whose only task is to quell the intifadah and serve as a new tool to suppress the Palestinian people and benefit the Israeli occupation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This agreement has allowed Israel to obtain a (?separate involvement) by the Palestinians and certain Arabs in talks with it. It has also used it to obtain $10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to provide housing and employment for hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees. It has also obtained $2 billion as additional aid from the United States, as well as modern aircraft and advanced missiles which it has added to its military arsenal.

Commentary Views Peace Possibilities

JN2307140494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As the chief of U.S. diplomacy, Warren Christopher, concluded his tour of the region, the picture has become clearer. The U.S. Administration has ascertained once again the true positions of all parties and their vision of the desired peace.

Syria has expressed, through President Hafiz al-Asad, that it is willing to discuss steps that could help make progress toward the achievement of the objective of peace. This Syrian position, which stems from its eagerness to establish a just and comprehensive peace, is a reassertion of the constant principles of Syria's political strategy. This strategy depends on the resolutions of international legitimacy, UN principles, and the foundations of the Madrid conference.

Syria is sincere in its quest for peace. It has contributed to the success of international efforts to achieve this objective. Secretary Christopher has once again felt the seriousness of Syria's position and Syria's commitment to the peace process. Christopher has expressed this personally. Also, the statements of his accompanying delegation confirm this.

In return, Israel is still maneuvering and procrastinating, speaking about withdrawals in the Golan and not from the Golan. By doing so, Israel is playing an old tune contrived by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and his government staff.

Through these new-old Israeli statements, Israel is weaseling out of the statements made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which preceded the U.S. secretary's tour, about Syria's sovereignty over the Golan. These statements—intended to show that Israel is responding to the requirements of peace—are not new and do not change historical and geographical realities. This is especially true since the whole world knows that the Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial and shall remain so forever.

Syria's response to U.S. and Russian peace efforts stems from its eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that restores the occupied Arab territories. Israel, on the other hand, seeks to maintain its occupation of precious parts of Arab territory. This is impossible, since occupation is the antithesis of peace and because the peace process, in its entirety, was launched on the basis of UN resolutions that call for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

Syria has repeatedly asserted its readiness to meet the requirements of peace. This, however, absolutely does not mean that it would accept any peace imposed on it or that it would give up any grain of its soil or any of the rights acknowledged by the international community. Peace can never be achieved while a single grain of soil is still occupied. This fact is known to the world and the U.S. and Russian sponsors before others. The Israelis are deluded if they think that Syria will accept anything short of the liberation of the last inch of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories. Syria joined the peace process only because of its conviction that it will restore its territory and rights in full. This was guaranteed by the UN resolutions adopted by the Madrid conference as a basis and frame of reference for the peace process; namely Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

This is what Israel should realize very well. This is also known to U.S. Secretary Christopher, who will return to the region shortly to advance the peace process. When Israel demonstrates readiness for the requirements of peace, as acknowledged by international law and the international community, then the establishment of peace will be largely possible. Otherwise, nearly three years of work will go with the wind.

'Air of Pessimism' Perceived in Peace Efforts

MM2507135694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus Announces Failure of U.S. Secretary's Tour Because of Israel's Rejection of UN Resolutions"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who returned to Damascus that morning in a new attempt to give negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track some momentum, but that track still seems to be stumbling. Christopher reported to President al-Asad the results of his talks with Israeli officials which focused on the Syrian ideas and concepts submitted during Tuesday's talks.

The U.S. secretary of state did not make any statements on his arrival in the Syrian capital. He went straight to the People's Palace for his meeting with President al-Asad in the presence of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. Middle East peace process coordinator.

Syria, however, has declared in almost certain terms that Christopher's visit failed. It said that it was very difficult to point to anything specific about the tour because of Israel's insistence on its position rejecting the UN resolutions, the implementation of which is essential for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. That has created an air of pessimism about the possibility of injecting some life into the peace process. According to political sources in Damascus, everything is now up in the air and the region may be opening its gates to all kinds of possibilities, and war will be the master of the situation.

What drives one to that conclusion, despite the optimism about the chances of success and a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track which accompanied the first part of Christopher's tour, is the fact that Christopher did not appear encouraged or optimistic after his meeting with the Israeli officials the day before yesterday. Add to that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statement in Cairo in which he said that "there are no signs of progress in the negotiations with Syria." Peres made that statement after his meeting with Christopher. [passage omitted]

A Syrian information official has stated that Israel talks much about peace but has used every possible method to derail the peace process. He added: "The Oslo agreement and what followed it provided the evidence of that." He said that Israel saw in these agreements an opportunity to wash its hands of the Madrid formula and to insist on new—but actually old—policies of promoting its own peace through separate and partial agreements. The official said that what took place in Oslo and elsewhere cannot possibly achieve for Israel the peace it dreams about, and it is now obvious that it should realize that real peace can only be achieved in the context of a comprehensive settlement that would restore rights to their owners without any beating about the bush.

He said that Israel should be faced with serious and firm stands to put an end to its current policies which impede peace, and Israel should realize that it would be making a grave mistake if it thought that Syria, which played a basic role in starting the peace process, would accept a solution that would not guarantee full and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Parties' Day of 'Mourning' Noted

JN2407080994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] A group of Jordanian parties has decided to consider 25 July, the day on which King Husayn will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington, a day of national grief and mourning.

The parties stressed their rejection of the ongoing Jordanian-Israeli negotiations because the bases on which they were based do not realize the interests of the Jordanian people and the Arab nation.

In a statement issued yesterday, these parties reaffirmed their rejection of the Oslo and Cairo agreements and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and what they entail, stressing they were not binding on the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. The parties say: Acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho plan does not provide a justification for joining the march and agreeing on the role set for Jordan as the crossing point to realize the super, and not just greater, Israel.

The statement reviews the peace process and the objectives of Israel, which reject the comprehensive and just peace and which seeks to deal separately with each Arab party. The statement also says: Promises of a fake economic boost as a result of a successful end to these negotiations are unfounded. Examples from the previous years provide conclusive evidence on this fact.

The statement notes that the Jordanian people are concerned about their country's national and pan-Arab future as it faces the unknown after the Jordanian Government chose to yield to the de facto situation and reach partial solutions without achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The statement was signed by the Islamic Action Front Party, the pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee to Confront Submission and Normalization.

Al-Shar' Delivers Message to al-Hirawi

JN2307181394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after delivering a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese borders by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Afghanistan

'Panic-Stricken' Coalition Leaders Order Executions

LD2507170194 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] [passage indistinct] Quoting reliable sources, a Radio Payam-e Azadi correspondent reported to us that recently the hireling coalition administration mounted a failed operation on mojahedin positions in Maidanshahr, where they encountered shameful defeat. The report adds that following the failure of the offensive, leaders of the coalition administration were panic-stricken and issued orders for the arrest and execution of a number of those who did not take part in the fighting. The report says that Lieutenant Colonel Asadollah Maidani, a teacher at officers higher course, who refused to participate in fighting against the mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, was detained and summarily executed [words indistinct].

The report adds that Abdul Rashid, a pilot, who was arrested by the KHAD criminal agency for the same reason and later succeeded in escaping, told our correspondent that the leaders of the hireling coalition administration, under instructions from the enemies of our country, have not refrained from any kind of crimes against our oppressed nation and [passage indistinct].

Hekmatyar Radio Assails Herat Meeting

LD2507163094 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] According to reports received from Herat, the meeting there is facing complete failure and disgrace. A [word indistinct] correspondent quoting a reliable source reports that officials of the infamous [Rabbani-led] coalition were very much upset by the failure of the Herat meeting to make progress and their failure to attract more people from abroad, and regret the vast expenses incurred and the bribes paid to ensure that this meeting took place.

The report says that this meeting is a bogus gathering of [words indistinct] that belongs to a particular band [words indistinct]; it has become so notorious that it is impossible for the infamous coalition band to hide it. Not only have leaders of seven jihadi groups not participated in the meeting, but also a number of those people who have participated in the meeting are very unhappy, and are publicly criticizing the character, progress, and aims of this meeting. The best example of this is the remarks of Gol Agha, the so-called governor of Kandahar. [Word indistinct] correspondent says that in the bogus Herat meeting [words indistinct] the last efforts of the infamous coalitionists, which have taken the form of sending a delegation to Peshawar, have faced complete failure, and no jihadi leader agreed to attend the [word indistinct] meeting.

An RPA [Radio Payam-e Azadi] correspondent adds that the claim of the coalitionists that esteemed Mojaddedi will take part in the meeting is totally unfounded. Esteemed Lieutenant General Homayun Fawzi, in charge of the political affairs of the Janbash-e Meli Eslami [National Islamic Movement] and member of the High Coordination Council, said yesterday that he had spoken on the telephone the previous day with esteemed Mojaddedi, who told him that he would under no circumstances participate in the bogus Herat meeting. In addition, Lt. Gen. Fawzi added that two days ago esteemed General Abdol Rashid Dostam had been contacted by telephone from Peshawar and asked to send a team of representatives to Herat. Gen. Dostam turned down the request, and condemned the bogus nature of the Herat meeting. The RPA reporter adds: Most of the jihadi organizations are contemplating convening a comprehensive and representative shura in Jalalabad, and are trying to convene such a shura very soon in order to resolve the country's crisis.

India

Spokesman on Code of Conduct Talks With Pakistan

BK2607070094 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1451 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Spokesman's Statement"]

[Text] Briefing newsmen, after circulation of our statement on the discussions between Joint Secretary Mr. M.K. Bhadrakumar and the deputy high commissioner of Pakistan in New Delhi, the spokesman added by way of background, that the bilateral code of conduct between India and Pakistan was signed in August 1992 after much procrastination by the Pakistani side. Recalling some of the major incidents of violations by Pakistan of the code of conduct, he said that in December 1992, the Indian Airlines office was ransacked and our Consul General's house in Karachi was vandalised even as the local police showed complete inertia. In February 1993, India asked for compensation of rupees 76 lakhs in respect of our Consul General's residence and another rupees 10 lakhs for the Indian Airlines office. In April 1993, the Pakistani authorities asked for some details which were immediately provided by us.

However, till date, no compensation has been received. In March 1993, there was an attempted abduction of the wife of the Air Attache in Islamabad while she was waiting to pick up her child from the bus. In July 1994, the nine-year old daughter of one of our First Secretaries was followed inside her house. The miscreant ran off when the parents raised an alarm. Since January 1994, there have been 12 incidents of vandalising of our cars, deflating their tyres, and smashing windscreens and lights.

Referring to reports in the Pakistani media that Mr. Mohd Afzal Bajwa arrived in Lahore in a wheel chair with alleged injuries and his claim that he was tortured and forced to confess by the Indian authorities, he said that the allegations were totally false. In this connection, he played a video film showing Bajwa's examination by both an Indian and a Pakistani doctor and his handing over to Pakistan High Commission's head of chancery in good physical condition. He said that India was convinced that Pakistan is stage-managing incidents and that they were ploys to take so-called retaliatory actions. He gave details of an incident on July 23, 1994, in Karachi when at 1810 hours, the windows of the car of Mr. J.J. Singh, a consul at India's consulate general in Karachi was smashed by 10 Pakistani intelligence agents. On the same day at 1810 hours in Islamabad, our high commission's staff car driven by Mr. Pillai was damaged by 12 people in four vehicles outside the residence of First Secretary Mr. Karnik. The driver was beaten with lathis.

In response to a query on an incident in New Delhi in which allegedly the car of the Pakistani naval attache was damaged, he said that we were enquiring into what Pakistan had told us and investigations were going on into the Pakistani version.

In response to another query, he mentioned that India had proposed structured joint secretary-level talks, because it was felt that talks between missions and foreign offices were in any case routine and could not be as productive as talks between two foreign offices. He recalled a previous statement on the subject made earlier. In response to a query quoting Pakistan High Commissioner that talks between himself and foreign secretary of India could be as useful as those proposed by India, the spokesman said that he disagreed with this view as then there would never be any need for any country to send delegations for negotiations or diplomatic talks if there were diplomatic missions functioning in the respective countries. India had proposed talks between the two foreign ministries as per diplomatic practice and custom as decisions were always taken and approved by governments and not diplomatic missions.

Deputy Secretary (Pakistan), who was present at the briefing, informed newsmen about the provisions of the code of conduct which among other things, provided for periodic review of implementation. However, no review of the code had taken place so far. He also briefed them on the restrictive visa regime followed by the Pakistani authorities for Indian journalists.

Iran

Turkish President Demirel Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Rafsanjani

LD2507211594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Ways of expanding Tehran-Ankara cooperation, regional and international issues, an increase in the volume of trade and joint investments, transport, power transmission lines, energy and gas, joint contract work, and the exchange of news and information were discussed at the first round of talks between Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the talks, Mr. Demirel referred to the fact that the peoples of the two neighboring countries, Iran and Turkey, have enjoyed friendly and sincere relations for centuries and have maintained calm and stability on the two countries' common borders with confidence and trust, based on common beliefs and culture. He said the security prevailing in Iran is a result of the wisdom and good will of the Iranian authorities and very important to Turkey and other countries in the region.

Mr. Demirel said: Iran and Turkey's capacity for cooperation, particularly in commercial affairs, is more than the present level. He stated: Considering the invaluable experience of the two countries in trade, technology, and industry, we hope the outcome of talks between the members of the Turkish delegation and the Iranian authorities on this visit will be fruitful, and that the two countries will be able to speed up access to Europe, Asia and Central Asia through linking communications networks.

At the talks Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said bringing about trust and confidence between Iran and Turkey is an important principle in strengthening mutual ties and is beneficial to the interests of both countries and the region. He said cooperation between the two countries in goods transit between Iran and Europe through Turkey, and goods transit between Turkey and Asian and Persian Gulf countries via Iran is beneficial to both countries and the region. He added: Work on the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway and the Tehran-Zanjan highway progresses at speed, and its extension, via Tabriz, will reach the common border.

The president expressed the hope that Turkey will expedite the building of railways and roads from Ankara to Iran's border areas. He stressed the need for cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and the expansion of cooperation within the framework of that organization. He declared Iran's readiness to connect the power lines of all that organization's member countries and Turkey's acceptance to cooperate in the project on the transfer of Turkmenistan's gas via Iran and the transfer of Iran's gas to Turkey.

[Tehran IRNA in English in a similar report at 2023 GMT on 25 July adds: "At the end of their first round of talks, Rafsanjani and Demirel agreed that the future cooperation of the two countries be studied by political, economic and security committees the findings of which is to be debated in the second round of their talks."]

Presidents Address Banquet

LD2607083994 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday said that situation was suitably prepared for both Iran and Turkey to make firm decisions in their bilateral cooperation. The president was speaking at a dinner banquet held in honor of his visiting Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel, who arrived here Monday afternoon.

Underlining the need for following up implementation of the agreements already reached between the two countries, the president said that further consolidation of bilateral cooperation between the two neighboring countries would be in the interest of the two nations as well as regional states.

In reply President Demirel described location of both Iran and Turkey as very sensitive given the recent developments in Central Asia, the Balkans and Caucasia and with regard to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

Expressing hope that bilateral cooperation between the two neighboring countries would reach even a more desirable level, President Demirel said that Iran and Turkey would not allow saboteurs to disturb their bilateral relations.

Khamene'i Receives Demirel

LD2607104194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, received President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey and his high-ranking delegation this morning. In the course of this meeting, also attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed leader stressed the seriousness of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in strengthening the friendly and sincere relations with the Government of Turkey. He referred to Islam as an important common denominator for the expansion of bilateral ties, particularly in confronting problems of the Islamic world.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, referring to the role played by the two countries to strengthen the world of Islam, said: The Government of Turkey has performed a worthy effort to assist the Muslim nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We believe that if the aims of Iran and Turkey in the tragic affairs of Bosnia had been promoted in other Islamic countries, we would have achieved great success. The two countries, therefore, in addition to bilateral cooperation, can maintain fruitful ties with each other within the framework of cooperation among the Islamic countries.

The leader of the Islamic revolution, referring to the remarkable growth in trade and economic cooperation between Iran and Turkey, said: The two countries' geographical location and natural resources are considered a suitable ground for the expansion of bilateral ties. In addition the two neighboring countries share many common points, including their common belief and faith and the two sides' constructive role in the approach to the Islamic world, to strengthen their friendly and fraternal ties.

Also during this meeting, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey referred to the long history of friendly and sincere relations between the two countries and pointed out the importance of continuing mutual cooperation for the sake of maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The president of Turkey said that the objective of his visit to Iran is the need to review bilateral ties with the objective of upgrading their level and also discuss cooperation in regional and international issues. He added: The borders of Iran and Turkey have always been borders of friendship. The two countries have enjoyed peace and tranquillity during the past few centuries. Turkey's official stance is that the enemies of the Iranian nation will not be permitted to use Turkey's territory against the neighboring country, that is, Iran. And we expect a reciprocal gesture from Iran.

Demirel also assured the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution that there is no mistrust between Iran and Turkey. The two sides can expand their ties on the basis of mutual trust, strengthening of friendly relations, and respecting each other's interests. The president of Turkey termed the Islamic countries' unity and solidarity as essential, and he said: Iran and Turkey, as two neighboring and Muslim states, cooperate well with each other in the Islamic Conference Organization. They should join thoughts and cooperate with each other to create unity and fraternity in the world of Islam and to confront the suffering and plight of the Muslim nations.

Demirel, referring to such regional problems as the Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, developments in the northern region of Iraq, and the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia, said that cooperation between the IRI and Turkey to resolve these crises would be in the interests of the two countries and the world of Islam.

At the conclusion of this meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, addressing the president of Turkey, emphasized: The IRI welcomes sincere cooperation with Turkey. It believes that the two countries, by preventing operations of their enemies in each other's territories, can create a friendly and trustworthy atmosphere in bilateral ties.

Demirel on Relations, Islam

NC2607065294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Turkish president gave an exclusive interview to the Central News Unit last night and commented on Turkey's stances on Ankara-Tehran relations and on important regional issues.

Asked by our correspondent about the two countries' relations, Demirel said: Iran and Turkey—two major countries in the region—are proceeding with mutual trust. The enemies of the two countries will be unable to harm these relations. The Turkish president described the $1 billion of bilateral trade as a good example of mutual economic cooperation, saying: In view of the existing potential this volume can increase to $2 billion per year.

Commenting on a delay in the implementation of some bilateral economic agreements, Demirel said this is due to the extensive volume of cooperation and added: In the talks with the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran we assigned the officials of the two countries' joint economic commission to follow up past agreements.

Our correspondent Qoroqi asked the Turkish president: Why does Ankara not end the activities by Iranian terrorist and counterrevolutionary groups in Turkey? Demirel said: We highlight the two countries' mutual agreement on preventing such activities and we explicitly state that no one can carry out terrorist activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran from Turkish territory.

Commenting on the victory of the Islamic Welfare Party during the recent election, Demirel said: Everyone is a Muslim in Turkey and respects religion. Demirel said: The secular way of thought in Turkey does not negate religion, but pursues the theory of separating religion from politics.

Asked why some Turkish officials want the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey to be confronted, Demirel said: They are making a mistake. We are all Muslims.

Radio Comments on Demirel's Visit, Remarks

NC2607073894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Turkish president is in Tehran and talks between our president and Demirel started yesterday afternoon. In an interview last night the Turkish president highlighted the common historic past of the two nations and the current friendship between Tehran and Ankara. Demirel said: Iran and Turkey are two large regional countries with sensitive roles. It is only natural for the enemies of the two nations to have been harmed by this friendship and to strive to plot against and mar the two nations' relations.

In his interview the Turkish president explicitly stressed that 98 percent of the Turkish people are Muslims, adding that it is incorrect to say that Turkish statesmen negate religion. Demirel said: We are all Muslims. But he also added that Turkey opposes the use of religion to obtain political ends.

Irrespective of the last part of the remarks by our country's high-ranking guest, which can be commented upon and could possibly call for further clarification of the meaning of the use of religion to obtain political ends, political experts believe that a large part of Demirel's remarks is noteworthy and shows that the Turkish president understands the extent of Iran's respect for the two countries' common religious aspects in expanding bilateral relations.

The history of the great Turkish nation's service to the religion of Islam and Turkey's renowned religious personalities, in addition to the old religious ties between the two nations, form the most important motive for expanding Tehran-Ankara relations. Iran's emphasis on expanding bilateral cooperation within the framework of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] is based on this progressive viewpoint.

Last night during the first round of talks between the Iranian and Turkish presidents, Demirel said that for centuries the two neighboring peoples of Iran and Turkey have had friendly and sincere relations and have maintained calm and stability on their common border with confidence and trust based on common beliefs and culture.

In this round of talks President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that creating trust and confidence between Iran and Turkey is an important principle in strengthening mutual ties and benefits the interests of both countries in the region. He pointed out the need for the two countries to use each other's potential and know-how.

The Turkish president's visit to Tehran will end tomorrow.

Dailies View Demirel Visit, Tehran-Ankara Ties

LD2607090194 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Tuesday termed the current visit to Tehran of the Turkish President Suleyman Demirel as a ground for boosting bilateral ties. President Suleyman Demirel arrived here Monday on a 3-day official visit heading a high ranking political, economic and security delegaiton.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' expressed hope that the two presidents would agree on broader cooperation between Tehran and Ankara which will benefit the people of both the countries and will promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The paper said in its editorial that there are numerous areas which should be explored by the two sides for the expansion of economic cooperation. It reminded that the volume of trade between the two countries amounted to over dlrs. 2 billion a few years ago but currently the figure is below dlrs. one billion.

Stressing that the Turkish people and officials realize the importance of good neighbourly relations with Iran, it said "both countries should note that there are certain hidden hands which fan the flames of discord between Tehran and Ankara".

Pointing to the political record of Demirel, the Persian daily 'ABRAR' said that he is expected to try to overcome the weak points in bilateral ties and keep the two countries' relations away from personal tastes. Turkey is located in a region where Iran is regarded one of its indisputable powers, said the daily adding, the future presence in the region requires cooperation on the basis of regional and national interests. The visit of the Turkish president can provide a congenial ground for the future cooperation of the two countries in the region provided the opportunists are not permitted to disturb this cooperation, concluded the paper.

Cooperation with Turkey Said Needed

LD2507120094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During the visit by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Iran, the presidents of the two countries will discuss economic issues, regional security, Iraq, and the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. As two neighboring Muslim countries, Iran and Turkey have various areas in which bilateral relations could be expanded. The two countries are members and founders of the regional organization ECO, and further cooperation and coordination between Iran and Turkey could advance the aims of the organization—which is now active with 10 members—and thus create the background for a powerful economic axis in the area, which in turn could lead to a common Islamic market.

The existing economic cooperation and trade between Iran and Turkey has made them each other's main partner, and talks between the two presidents could lead to an expansion in relations.

On the one hand Turkey needs oil, which is supplied by its neighbor Iran—this is more economical than buying oil from other countries—and on the other the Turkish market could provide goods needed by Iran—this could suitably replace products of other countries—and these factors have changed the Iranian and Turkish economies in such a way that they complement each other. Strengthening economic and trade ties not only expands and strengthens bilateral relations, it supports regional cooperation within the ECO framework.

Iran's and Turkey's common understanding of regional security and the problem of northern Iraq are also factors that have led to increasingly closeness between Tehran and Ankara. As the Iranian president has stated, the issues that will be discussed with the Turkish president will include Iraq and regional security.

Since the oil war and the flaming of crisis in Iraq, which pushed the country toward disintegration, Iran and Turkey, as well as Syria, have taken similar stances on the need for the territorial integrity of Iraq. And they have tried, through common commissions, to maintain their common stances and to thwart factors threatening Iraq's territorial integrity. Furthermore, confrontation with terrorist activities is a common ground which could be emphasized by both Iran and Turkey, and thus expand bilateral relations.

Both Iran and Turkey need each other's cooperation in order to confront such threats. The possibility of illegal crossing of the border between the two countries and of illegal stays—which could lead to terrorist activities—have made cooperation between the two countries a necessity. Neither country is able to turn a blind eye to this. Thus, Iran and Turkey need to cooperate with each other in order to thwart the threats facing the security of the two countries.

Syrian Education Minister Signs Agreement, Departs

LD2407200594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Salihah Sunqar, Syria's minister of culture and higher education, who had come to our country at the invitation of her Iranian counterpart, left this evening with her accompanying delegation. She was seen off by the Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani.

At the conclusion of her visit, after signing a nine-point memorandum of understanding, she was interviewed by a correspondent of the Central News Unit. She termed the outcome of her talks as successful and said: The bilateral talks with the Iranian officials on joint cooperation in the scientific, educational, and training fields led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding, which is a practical step towards expanding scientific, cultural and research ties between the two countries.

Referring to the responsibility of training the youth on the basis of cultural and Islamic values, which is a task of the two Islamic countries' Ministries of Culture and Higher Education, she said: As two Islamic countries, we have many possibilities and capabilities; and if these resources were to be utilized properly, we would be able to stand against the West's misleading cultural planning that we are now witnessing.

Hashemi-Golpayegani on the outcome of his talks with Syria's minister of culture and higher education said: The signing of this memorandum of understanding has opened a more open atmosphere for the expansion of scientific, educational, and research cooperation between the higher education institutes of Iran and Syria.

Joint Commission With Australia Planned

LD2607100694 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—The Australian ambassador to Tehran, Nick Warner, said here Tuesday that Iran-Australia joint commission would be set up next month. He made the remark in a meeting with Iranian minister of mines and metals, Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, during which the two sides voiced interest in the expansion of cooperation in industrial and economic areas and expressed complete satisfaction over the production of gold and training-research programs.

Cooperation in the areas of aluminium industries, the copper mine complex of Meyduk in the central Iranian province of Esfahan, and establishment of a joint university in the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm were among other topics discussed between the two sides.

Tiles Sent to Turkmenistan for Asbestos

LD2607091194 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—The mines and oil products branch of the Mostazafan and Janbazan foundation (Impoverished and the Disabled) has inked a barter agreement with the Republic of Turkmenistan to export a total of dlrs. 9 million worth of tiles to the republic. The foundation would import asbestos from Turkmenistan in barter for the exports of tiles.

The details and the time of the dispatch of the first consignment from Iran would be determined by the experts of the two countries soon.

New Oil Markets in South Africa, Bulgaria Sought

LD2507143994 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpt] London, July 25, IRNA—The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is said to be seeking to close new contracts in South Africa and Eastern Europe having consolidated its customer base in both eastern and western markets over the past year. According to the London-based PETROLEUM ARGUS WEEKLY, contracts with five major South African refiners, which have been buying up to 150,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude on a spot basis since the start of 1994, are in process of being concluded.

Bulgaria's Burgas Refinery was also reported to have agreed a one-year renewable agreement with NIOC. The Black Sea refinery has previously bought Iranian crude on the spot market and under the deal, will lift cargo directly from Sidi Kerir in the Mediterranean.

Iran's other sales are said to be little changed from last year, with many customers having increased their average volumes. Research from PETROLEUM ARGUS shows the division between eastern and western markets roughly around 900,000 bpd and 21.6 million bpd respectively. [passage omitted]

MKO Official's Interview in Berlin Cited

NC2507124894 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jul 94 p 2

["Special Report": "The Monafeqin and Their Tactical Use of Islam!"]

[Text] The counterrevolutionary publication KAR, which belongs to the so-called Feda'iyan-e Khalq Guerrillas and is published abroad, reported in a recent issue, No. 83, on a question-and-answer session organized by the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] in Hamburg, Germany, during which Mehdi Abrishamchi, one of the leaders of the Monafeqin group who had gone to Germany from Iraq, spoke in detail about the anti-Islamic and hypocritical nature of the group.

Explaining why Iraq was chosen as a base for the Monafeqin, Mehdi Abrishamchi said: "The reason Iraq was chosen was because it was fighting against the infiltration by (Imam) Khomeyni and the Islamic revolution."

Abrishamchi also discussed why the word "Islam" was used by the organization in the past and why it has been omitted under the current conditions and said:

"Since we were described by (Imam) Khomeyni as Monafeqin, if we did not stipulate the word "Islam" at that time, we would have lost our popularity (!) among the people."

Asked why, in the initial years following the victory of the Islamic revolution, the organization declared support for the revolution and for (Imam) Khomeyni and why (Imam) Khomeyni was even described as a "father," Abrishamchi said:

"These were the best tactics for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization at the time."!

When the member of the central committee of the Monafeqin was asked why there is no freedom of action or thought or even freedom of contemplation for the members and supporters of the organization, he answered:

"Actually we enjoy superdemocracy in Iraq."!!

Parliamentary Union Urged To Denounce Terrorism

LD2407141894 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Secretary-general of interparliamentary group of Iran on Sunday called on parliament speakers of Islamic countries and other states which are members of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] to play their due role in combatting terrorism.

In separate messages to the above-mentioned parliament speakers, Mohsen Yahyavi called on the IPU to condemn the crimes committed by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO].

Referring to the martyrdom of 26 pilgrims and the injury of 170 people in June 20 bomb explosion at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) [peace be upon him] in Mashhad, he said there are sound documents which prove the MKO's involvement in the design and execution of the terrorist act in Mashhad.

He said the terrorist MKO has a dirty record of hijacking, killing and torture of Iranian people, complicity in suppressing the uprising of Iraqi people in 1991 and murder of religious minorities in Iran in a bid to trigger sectarian and ethnic conflict.

He criticized certain governments for adopting double-standard policies and taking passive position towards the MKO's terrorist acts and for sheltering MKO terrorists in their countries, which he said would only encourage blind terrorism.

Nateq-Nuri Blames West for MKO Activity

LD2407101794 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Sunday termed discord among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims as one of the plots by Zionists and hegemonic powers and called for a vigilant confrontation with such a conspiracy.

Addressing today's Majles open session, he stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a defender of Muslims and Islamic aspirations and said that such plots by global arrogance would further consolidate unity of Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

He pointed to the recent deplorable incident in Pakistan in which a number of Shi'ites were martyred and called for a decisive confrontation with the terrorist "Sepah-e Sahabeh" by the Pakistani Government.

Nateq-Nuri condemned Western governments for allowing the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) to have activities and hold demonstrations on their soil and said that the so-called supporters of human rights by adhering to such policies further unveiled their hypocritic nature and the grudge they harbored against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that the so-called support of global arrogance and the West for human rights is a mere cover for their crimes and a plot to divert public opinion which he said should not be treated indifferently.

GATT Membership Said Needed To Ensure Exports

LD2507194994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The minister of mines and metal says: Membership in the international trade organization GATT will help to preserve and improve the quality of domestic products.

Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji states that in order to be able to reach the markets of other countries, joining GATT is inevitable for Iran. He believes, furthermore, that if Iran does not join GATT, in future its nonoil exports will face difficulties.

According to a new agreement reached in Uruguay, the GATT members have accepted that by employing various measures, they are to limit imports from nonmember countries and certain geographical areas.

Commerce Ministry Bans Scrap Metal Exports

LD2607110894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Commerce Ministry announced: The export of scrap iron is banned from all the borders of the country including Pakistan's border, until further notice.

Yazdi, Velayati Address Diplomats Seminar

LD2407130394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Speaking at a seminar of Iranian representatives abroad, the head of the judiciary stressed that human rights are being misused as a political tool by great powers.

He said we refuse to accept this ruling practice of the world and will behave according to Islamic laws.

Referring to the important role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad, Mr. Yazdi said a correct understanding of world affairs is among the factors needed to advance the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy.

He said that with the changes currently taking place in the international arena, the political behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad should guarantee the interests of the revolution, and the guidance of the great leader is a suitable model here.

The head of the judiciary stressed that the judiciary in the Islamic Republic is an excellent example for the world, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad should introduce the Islamic judicial system to the world's governments and peoples, because they are active in forming the Islamic Republic of Iran's policies. Our correspondent reports on the seminar, which continues today:

[Correspondent] Later in the seminar, Foreign Minister Akbar Velayati pointed out the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policies on global developments, and analyzed the way the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad should approach international issues.

He pointed out the difficulties faced by world Muslims and said that in today's world those taking an interest in divine values are pressurized and plotted against by world arrogance and Zionism. We should stand up to this corruption and deviation.

Stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the focus of hope for world Muslims, Mr. Velayati said the guidance of the great leader should be model of behavior for you abroad.

Furthermore, the foreign minister said, vigilance, hard work, and attention to Islamic values are necessary for the moral character of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad. He added: You have the honor of being Islamic ambassadors and should measure your own behavior against Islamic values.

Seminar for IRNA Correspondents Opens in Tehran

LD2307105094 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Saturday underlined the need for employment of most advanced communication methods in the field of media.

Addressing the opening session of the 7th gathering of the IRNA bureau chiefs abroad, Habibi underlined updating information in news-related fields in order to have speedy access to development around the globe.

Given the cultural assault of the enemies and mingling of truth with falsehood by foreign media, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA), as well as other media in the country, should gain confidence of the people by separating false and true and by swift transmission of factual news, Habibi said.

He stressed that while making a sound analysis of the world news order, the country should adopt a coordinated news system for its own.

Habibi noted that well-informed reporters should select news items and data according to the needs and requirements of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Prior to vice-president's speech, Managing Director of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY Fereydun Verdinejad said that the seminar will try to make a sound analysis of news priorities as well as that of the country's potentials in an effort to explore ways for better employment of possibilities in the country's reconstruction era.

He also stressed on the careful study of news ploys by foreign media and employment of proper techniques to confront cultural assault of the enemies.

Some 30 IRNA bureau chiefs are here to take part in the seminar to exchange views on various news-related issues and annual achievements of their representative offices.

Also speaking at the gathering was Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim who referred to the idea of creating pandemonium for attracting more audience as one of the weak points in the administration of a news agency.

Among other weak points affecting performance of a news agency the minister pointed to acting as the sole mouthpiece of government at national and international levels, quantitative competition with other news agencies and lack of coordination among news media inside the country.

The last speaker of the session was Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'a'i in charge of ETTELA'AT publications who wished the gathering success in promoting the news flow both inside and outside the country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'a'i further added that the media community in Iran has the honor to render services to a nation who enjoys highest merits from various points of view.

He also announced the joining of daily "ETTELA'AT INTERNATIONAL" to the international press circle and appreciated IRNA's assistance in this connection.

The IRNA bureau chiefs later paid tribute to the founder of the Islamic revolution, late Imam Khomeyni, by attending the imam's mausoleum.

Khamene'i Urges Vigilance

LD2507193494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting today with the managing director, officials, editors, and heads of foreign bureaus of IRNA, described the struggle of the Iranian nation in the defense of Islamic principles and values as continual and everlasting. He stressed the necessity for an alert and vigilant fight against the enemies of Islam in the news and propaganda arena.

Expressing his pleasure at the improvement in the quality of IRNA's news the esteemed leader said: Today's world is an arena for news and propaganda warfare. All the ringleaders of world arrogance and international powers, who are considered to hold sway over the world's rostrums, have targeted the Islamic Republic system by using their best newsmaking and news-fabricating brains. Therefore, IRNA employees should, as front-line soldiers in that battle, answer the enemy's unjust moves and intrigues by utilizing their knowledge of combat and concentrating their decision-making.

The esteemed leader referred to an extra-governmental and extra-territorial policy on the scene of global propaganda. He said: Zionists and big capitalists are the main designers of these policies and control the world's major news agencies. They spend large sums of money to falsify a piece of news aimed against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and constantly try to deal heavy blows to the Iranian nation in the process of that fight. Therefore, those in charge of preparing and broadcasting news in Islamic Iran should, without hesitation, expose the aims and motives of the Zionists and the arrogant and foil their malevolent plans.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution said that it is necessary to disseminate correct and logical news and reflect the pains of the nation and the government. Addressing the IRNA officials he said: You are the strong arm of the Islamic system in the arena of news and propaganda. Your important duty in that field is to strike blows at the enemy and ward off the blows the enemy inflicts. That fight requires thought and knowledge. Defeating the enemy depends on learning about combat and concentrating decision-making.

The esteemed leader also stressed the necessity of using outstanding news personalities in policy-making and carrying out concentrated and wise work. He emphasized: Through the positive reflection of many news subjects inside the country the enemy's propaganda onslaught can be fought against and foiled.

Before the esteemed leader's speech, Mr. Verdi-Nezhad, the managing director of IRNA, submitted a report on the qualitative and quantitative progress of the organization on the domestic and international scene. He said: This organization has concentrated on clarifying truths for world public opinion as much as possible.

Kuwait's 'Forgetful' Foreign Minister Criticized

NC2307182394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Jul 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Forgetful Shaykh!"]

[Text] Amnesia is an incurable sickness, and O that no one—even the Kuwaiti foreign minister—becomes afflicted with it.

Although Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah is suffering from amnesia now and has forgotten everything, no one has forgotten the state he was in during the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. In some cases, people whose sickness is not yet acute can recall the past if they are reminded of certain things. Maybe Shaykh al-Sabah can remember if he is reminded how, after Saddam's aggression and when Kuwait was declared "Iraq's 19th province" and a commander selected by Saddam was placed in charge of everything, no one officially recognized him as Kuwait's foreign minister, and how even the then foreign ministers of America and Britain were not ready to meet with him. Naturally in those days many expected the Islamic Republic of Iran to think in the same way and to take revenge for the al-Sabah family's black record during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

But the Islamic Republic of Iran—with the broadmindedness that characterizes it always—chose a principled and sagacious stance on the occupation of Kuwait. It underlined the need for the independence and territorial integrity of that country and it did not hold the Kuwaiti nation responsible for the treacheries that the al-Sabah family had perpetrated.

Even though Shaykh al-Sabah has forgotten everything, he must remember that the Islamic Republic of Iran in those days displayed its broadmindedness once again when it accepted Kuwaiti refugees with open arms; that Iran also welcomed Shaykh al-Sabah as a foreign minister and treated him with dignity; and that even our president held a sincere meeting with him and ignored the black record of the al-Sabah family, even if that was the time to take revenge since everyone else had wound up its business with the al-Sabah family.

If Shaykh al-Sabah has today forgotten all these incidents from the recent past; if he has forgotten the fact that for 10 years the al-Sabah family supported the "Baghdad butcher"; if he has forgotten that Bubiyan, Warbah, and Faylakah Islands and even Kuwait Port were rented to Saddam; and if he has forgotten the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in preserving the independence and supporting the territorial integrity of Kuwait during Saddam's aggression, he might not be much to blame because he is "ill" and an ill person cannot be held responsible for an error. But it is the duty of the wise men inside the al-Sabah family to act according to their responsibilities and to remind the "forgetful shaykh."

In a recent interview with AL-HAWADITH's chief editor, the "forgetful shaykh" pointed out that differences on the islands can be solved through diplomatic means and talks between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] but that Iran has turned a deaf ear.

He added: "Iran proposes that the talks be only on Abu Musa Island. But what is important for us is that the talks include all three islands. And if Iran agrees to discuss all three islands, the problem can be easily solved."

Even though such remarks by the forgetful shaykh are not very unexpected in view of his past record, we would like to remind the wise men in Kuwait of a few points.

The first point is that before starting any discussion of "facts," it should be clarified whether "historical allegations" can be considered a basis for expressing views and making decisions. If so, then the fate of Kuwait, of Bahrain, and so on is very clear. If so, then the forgetful shaykh is stressing, out of ignorance, that Saddam committed aggression against Kuwait to occupy it and turn it into "Iraq's 19th province."

It is surprising that even though Kuwait is itself the victim of such historical allegations and has suffered and is suffering hundreds of billions of dollars in losses because of the absence of respect for existing borders, it is still enticed into such self- destructive acts and into paying lip service to the historical allegations of others.

The second point is that the al-Sabah family is completely aware of the firm, logical, and clear stance of the

Islamic Republic of Iran on the UAE's allegations. Islamic Iran considers Greater and Lesser Tunbs to be part of its territory, and naturally any discussion of this issue is rejected. As far as Abu Musa is concerned, the issue is very clear. Because of the fact that UAE minorities live on the island, Islamic Iran is ready to hear what the other side has to say. This is the situation in a nutshell; and there is nothing beyond this.

Naturally, the forgetful shaykh and others should be told that anything apart from this is a sign of the forgetfulness and ignorance of the person who says it; and the person who makes such allegations is well aware that he is being egged on by others, that he is saying exactly what others want him to say. The forgetful shaykh's remarks are particularly ridiculous coming as they do after the "6+2 Conference," since during that conference the Cairo regime insisted more frequently than the UAE itself that the UAE's allegations be repeated.

The third point is that it is in the interests of the al-Sabah family to enjoy the support and positive vote of the Islamic Republic of Iran in view of the sensitive situation in the region and not to hang on to the rotten rope of others. Reliable reports indicate that Kuwait is to be divided into parts to be agreed on between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

In this case, the forgetful shaykh should think before opening his mouth so that if Kuwait is dismembered, he can have the face to travel to Tehran and find someone to receive him and to listen to what he has to say.

Need for Dealings With Germany Questioned

NC2207152594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Jul 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "Let Us Not Put All Our Eggs in One Basket!"]

[Text] The 20th G-7 session concluded in Naples when some of the European countries (including Germany)—which have "appropriate" political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran—did not leave behind a noteworthy dossier.

The U.S. and British Governments, who were the actual initiators of the bill to condemn Iran at the session, capitalized on the defensiveness of some of the members, including Germany, which was expected to show some resistance against the wishes of the G-7, and were able for the first time to use "Iran's" name juxtaposed with the term "terrorism."

The G-7 concluding statement included the following on Iran: "We want the Iranian Government to participate constructively in international efforts to ensure peace and stability and to change its policy, which is in contravention of these objectives, especially on the issue of terrorism."

However, more than anything else, Germany's role merits some hairsplitting and assessment:

1. Contrary to its promises, Germany not only did not support Iran as it should have, it adopted a very defensive stance that resulted in the use of Iran's name for the first time in the same line as the term "terrorist" in the concluding statement of the session.

Similar incidents also have characterized our relations with Germany in the past, and this "bitter experience" should be a lesson to us so that we do not do what is known in common parlance as "put all our eggs in one basket!"

In addition, the release of the German spy Helmut Szimkus from Iran and the subsequent problems also merit attention. Immediately upon his release and return to Germany, Szimkus began spewing venom against the Islamic Republic of Iran and fabricated some bizarre and major falsehoods about his condition in the prison so that he could overshadow the charge against him of espionage.

It is interesting to note that all the mass media in Germany had confirmed that he was a spy prior to his release and that the German Government had also declared in its official announcement that his mental and physical condition was satisfactory and that he had not complained of any maltreatment during his prison term.

Despite Szimkus' denial and blatant allegations of not being a spy, the German Government had not denied in its official statement that he had spied for Iraq. In addition, Szimkus already had a record of espionage, which has been admitted by the German press.

2. Thus, we should further streamline our foreign policy by taking heed of such issues. This is where the main problem stems from in our foreign relations. We have pinned our hopes on the West when this policy does not ensure the political or economic interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In current circumstances, our diplomacy should give priority to "looking eastward" and should utilize the abundant resources and potential of the Eastern countries to the optimum, with which we have cultural and political similarities.

If we do not have any expectations from the West, we will not feel unhappy when they condemn us, and this is where this unfortunate question arises: Why does our administrative apparatus display such extreme interest in signing trade agreements with Europe? Most of our economic needs can be met from the bountiful continent of Asia and this region can also be a valuable market for the export of Iranian goods.

Of course, this does not mean that we should not forge relations correctly and should make enemies or that we should not capitalize on the opportunities present in the world. Instead, we should pay greater attention to the true nature of the countries and then decide on the level and extent of relations with them.

Russia's Efforts at Persian Gulf Presence Viewed

NC2207195194 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 17 Jul 94 p 12

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Buolhari: "Russia in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Recently Russia has started considerable diplomatic overtures on the Persian Gulf. Reference can be made to a meeting between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in St. Petersburg, after which it was stated that Moscow supports the lifting of the international sanctions on Iraq. In addition, Russia's interest in having special relations with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] too is another noteworthy point.

Since the very distant past—in other words, since the era of Peter I—Moscow has entertained thoughts of maintaining a presence in the Persian Gulf. This idea was seriously pursued during the czarist era and was not abandoned during the 74 years of the former Soviet Union.

The Sa'dabad and CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] pacts, as well as the powerful political and (later on) military presence of America in the Persian Gulf, prevented the materialization of Moscow's strategy.

At that time, the only outcome of Moscow's efforts in the Persian Gulf was very close relations with Iraq—an outcome that was achieved at the cost of the massacre of the "communist comrades" of the former Soviet Union in Iraq.

The Persian Gulf war, according to Mikhail Gorbachev—the last leader of the former Soviet Union—was an opportunity for Moscow to maintain its influence in lieu of losing Iraq and, at the same time, to make use of the financial assistance of the Arab shaykhdoms.

But the unwillingness of these shaykhs and the disintegration of the Soviet Union caused a brief interruption in Moscow's Persian Gulf diplomacy. However, gradually with a re-definition of Russian foreign policy on the basis of national interests, as well as because of Moscow's need for new currency resources, part of which should have been gained through the sale of arms, the Russians were forced to become active in various parts of the world, including in the Persian Gulf.

Russia's regional policy at that time was divided into two sections:

1. The policy of closeness with Iran: This policy started with mediation efforts with Iran in the Karabakh and Tajikistan wars and culminated in the sale of three submarines to Iran. At that time, in separating friend from foe, Russia chose Tehran as an ally so that both countries could use each other's potentials to fight foreign countries that were threatening their national interests. This, in turn, made Tehran and Moscow agree on the need to prevent military activities in the Persian Gulf.

2. Efforts to expand relations with the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf: In this policy that has been started in the recent months, Moscow has focused its attention on the Persian Gulf. The Kremlin believes that the continuation of this policy will lead to the sale of a large volume of arms and, ultimately, to foreign exchange incomes and a political and military presence in the region. Apparently, this has created a distance between Moscow and Tehran.

Meanwhile, Russia is interested in the re-establishment of its past relations with Iraq, (of course, up to the extent that its relations with the GCC will not be affected.)

The prevalence of this wrong notion among Russia's foreign policymakers who consider Iran to be the major threat against Russia's interests in Central Asia and the Caucasus, has led to a change in Moscow's policy on Tehran, and related to this, reference can be made to Russia's obstructionism in the Tajikistan peace talks.

Unfortunately, this viewpoint, which is also being propagated and inculcated by the West, has gone so far that Boris Yeltsin's adviser recently said that Moscow's relations with the GCC members should not be affected by Russia's relations with Iran.

But can Russia achieve its goal of a presence in the Persian Gulf? Apparently not, because:

1. American influence in the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms is so great that even influence by another Western country like Britain in regional markets is prevented. Therefore, one cannot expect Washington to open up the Persian Gulf doors to a country where there is a possibility of the opposition (communists and ultra-nationalists) taking power, even if the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms do buy some arms from Russia.
2. The GCC regards the current Iraqi regime negatively. Therefore, Russia's closeness with Baghdad and its insistence that the sanctions on Iraq be lifted can only lead to a negative reaction by the GCC.
3. Downgrading relations with friends is not only not to Moscow's benefit, but since Russia is facing the West on its own in Central Asia and the Caucasus, it would also be harmful. This is something that most realistic circles in Russia have realized, hence their insistence that strategic relations between Tehran and Moscow be expanded, because in the absence of such relations the way to the heart of Asia will be opened to the West which can then use the region to fulfill its objectives against powerful countries that strongly oppose Western domination.

Russia's presence in the Persian Gulf requires good relations with Iran.

UAE Arms Deal Said Part of U.S. 'Scenario'

NC2507090994 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Jul 94 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Qasemi: "Ensuring Defense Needs or Guaranteeing U.S. Objectives"]

[Text] Incoming reports indicate that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] intends to purchase advanced fighters worth $2.4 billion from the United States.

There is no question that each country may attempt to purchase arms within the framework of its defense needs. But the question here is:

1. What are the defense needs of a country like the UAE?
2. What dangers are threatening the UAE's border security?
3. To what extent can this country use the advanced weapons it has in mind?

It is not difficult to answer these questions. This immense volume of arms procurement is more than that country's defense needs, especially when no danger is threatening its border security apart from its western neighbor—Saudi Arabia. A shaykhdom like the UAE is incapable of making the necessary use of such advanced weaponry without the presence of foreign experts.

But the truth is that Abu Dhabi is in the process of signing its arms deal. The reason should be sought, to a large extent, in the new geopolitical situation arising after the second Persian Gulf war. In this adventitious situation—the scenario for which has been prepared by the United States—the area should be portrayed as being on the verge of a crisis created by a country that does not follow the self-elected superintendent of the self-made new world order. And this country should be accused by American statesmen of "amassing arms more than its defense needs" and of "having aggressive intentions." These are accusations that were made by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau against Iran in a speech in the UAE during his visit to Persian Gulf countries between 4-14 May 1994. American representatives stated last month: "Iran has not yet abandoned its ambitious objectives for dominating the area or its aggressive behavior toward its neighbors. We should do our best to contain Iran's efforts to achieve its objectives."

It is here that America—acting as "the godfather of the world"—considers it its duty to arm the oil-rich shaykhdoms against the "source of danger" under the label of ensuring the defense needs of the shaykhdoms.

Naturally, arming these shaykhdoms guarantees the regional objectives of America, because astronomic sums are pocketed by the merchants of death and by arms cartels and trusts that are mostly Western and especially American. Since these shaykhdoms are incapable of using these arms, military experts will also be sent to them, thus consolidating the American military presence in the region.

By sowing the seeds of discord among countries throughout the Persian Gulf and by provoking some Arab neighbors and driving them into the arena of the arms race, the American scenario in the Persian Gulf is moving toward threatening peace and stability in this sensitive and vital region. Interestingly, in tandem with Robert Pelletreau's presence in the region, Marshal Shaposhnikov, who heads the Russian arms company, was also hosted by the Kuwaitis. The Russian marshal was assigned the duty of removing the obstacles in front of Russian arms sales to Kuwait. This came when the UAE had also placed immense opportunities at the disposal of Russia to display its arms and when high-ranking French and British military officials had visited.

Non-Implementation of Resolution 598 Viewed

NC2407151694 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Our Enemies—More Humiliated Than Ever!"]

[Excerpts] Today, 18 July, is the anniversary of the acceptance of Resolution 598. Six years ago, the Islamic Republic of Iran displayed its goodwill by accepting the Resolution 598, but Iraq misconstrued it as a sign of weakness on the part of Iran and strove to initiate a new era of aggression and crimes to capitalize on the existing circumstances for its own benefit. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact that Baghdad was supported in its earlier acts of aggression and its crimes by the East and the West and was awarded medals, it had even its sovereignty and territorial integrity wrested from it in the second round. Now the situation is such that Iraqi airplanes do not have the right to overfly their own territory, but aggressor U.S., French, and British planes go boldly wherever they please over Iraq. Saddam does not even have the courage to protest against them and any kind of attack on the aggressor airplanes results in strong punishment from the multinational forces.

In such circumstances, Baghdad sought to undo this situation by supporting the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] and facts and figures indicate that it sought to gain concurrence with the Western viewpoints by doing so. Saddam considered the Monafeqin a trump card but the arrests of some of the MKO terrorists who planted bombs and were even assigned to kill Christian priests have exposed the Monafeqin and the "Executioner of Baghdad." Today, by issuing contradictory statements, they are seeking to cover everything and shrug off responsibility for these actions.

However, existing documentary evidence leaving no room for doubt has already made all denials and rebuttals superfluous. The Iraqi regime is responsible for the explosion of the bomb in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him) and the extensive series of crimes that were to have followed and is therefore considered an accomplice in the Monafeqin's atrocities. The West has encountered a crisis in its decisionmaking. On the one hand, it does not want to consider its investment in the Monafeqin as having been thrown to the winds, and on the other, it is seeking to exonerate itself due to the pressure from public opinion so that it does not have to confront the wave of wounded sensitivities of the world of Shiism.

Thus, the overt and covert links between the Monafeqin and most of the satanic powers are clearly confirmed and the supporters of the Monafeqin stand exposed before our nation. In such conditions, the British are acting more audaciously than others and these mischiefmongers deserve to be chastised. The question is, how? It appears that the answer to this question needs to be pondered.

TEHRAN TIMES on U.N. Embargo Against Baghdad

LD2407080194 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" Sunday commented on Iraq's lobbying to lift the UN embargo against the country and said the United States, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were against it.

"Along with the United States, Saudi Arabia also favours keeping the embargo intact, fearing that Baghdad may once again rebuild its army and pose a threat to the Saudi regime," said the daily adding, "Kuwait, for obvious reasons, is also vehemently against the lifting of the Iraqi embargo."

Turning to Turkey, the paper said in its editorial that Ankara has been losing a great deal of revenue as a result of the embargo which stopped the flow of Iraqi oil carried by the pipeline running through Turkish territory.

The recent visit to Baghdad of a Turkish delegation to discuss the Turkish Government's views on lifting the embargo just rooted in Ankara's monetary losses but has raised the ire of the United States, said the paper.

The editorial stressed that the U.S. objects to any country acting in its own national interest unless it receives the green light from Washington.

"As soon as Ankara announced its intention to send a delegation to Iraq, the usual human rights campaigners began chastising the Turkish Government for its inhuman policies."

Encouraging promotion and protection of the concept of human rights as an admirable policy, it deplored that "this lofty ideal has become a cheap political tool used by the West to intimidate other nations".

Washington, in its infinite wisdom, has reportedly come up with a solution which is to keep the embargo intact, compensate Turkey for its revenue losses and keep the precious Saudis and Kuwaitis safe from Iraq without spending a penny of U.S. taxpayers' money, the daily said and added that "Uncle Sam's suggestion is that Saudi Arabia nullifies [as received] Ankara by footing the bill for Turkish revenue losses".

The editorial added that in case Saudis plead poverty, the U.S. would suggest Riyadh to increase oil production volume.

This is what the U.S. wanted in the first place, concluded the daily.

Third World's Technology Transfer Problems Viewed

NC2507154594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 12

[Commentary: "Obstacles in the Transfer of Technology"]

[Excerpts] The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad held a news conference during his visit to France in which he stated: The transfer of technology to the needy countries of the Third World is not a unilateral affair. The willingness of countries to accept technology from the industrial countries is just as important. Addressing his own country in particular, the Malaysian prime minister said that if the people are not interested in obtaining advanced technology, Malaysia will be unable to raise the country's prestige and will lag behind in its national development.

This opinion by Mahathir Mohammad—that if the people are not ready to absorb technology, there can be no technology transfer—is completely true, despite the fact that the industrial countries and those who control technology have their own considerations. It is not as if whenever a country is ready to attain technology, it is placed at its disposal.

There are countries that have the expertise and economic resources to absorb technology but to whom the developed countries are not inclined to transfer it. Apart from this, there is another reality to ponder, that there are multiple standards with regard to technology transfer. This is because the industrial world only believes in imparting technology where it guarantees its long-term interests. This factor provides no motivation for technology transfer, because national sovereignty and independence of action have a conflicting relationship with the transfer of technology, and naturally, most countries give priority to national sovereignty. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, one must note that merely acquiring technology does not ensure the development of Third World countries. It is possible for these countries to be capable of absorbing advanced technology, but since this is a one-dimensional process in the Third World, at least most of the time, these countries are not very successful in absorbing this technology even when all the necessary conditions are present. National development is not possible through transfer of technology from abroad alone. What is more important is the development of political and economic institutions, and the just distribution of national income.

In most of the Third World countries, the ruling powers have destructive and dictatorial attitudes toward power and the distribution of national wealth. Therefore, it is clear that between the expectations of the people and the wishes of the ruling powers, the necessary agreement conducive to national development is lacking. In such societies, the absorption of advanced technology is superficial and bereft of the depth necessary for steering national development on a realistic course.

Those Third World countries seeking to absorb technology by setting up assembling operations become mere industrial appendages of the mother industrial countries over a period of time due to the lack of coordination among the political, economic, educational, and technical institutions. In such cases, the transfer of technology does not take the desired form. It may be said that Malaysia has had a different experience in this regard and has to a certain extent been able to act more intelligently with regard to the absorption of technology and capital.

In any case, when the Malaysian minister warns that the transfer of technology is not a unilateral affair and that the willingness of the Third World countries is a basic prerequisite, one should take his remarks seriously. One should therefore ponder the obstacles within the countries that need technology, quite apart from the reluctance on the part of the countries possessing capital and technology. Otherwise, there is no doubt that the transfer and absorption of technology will encounter difficulties as, at times, the Third World countries find themselves bogged down with greater problems halfway through the projects and are deprived of even the limited technology that already existed in their own countries. They find themselves with a series of assembly industries dependent on the mother industries. This experience has unfortunately been repeated in numerous Third World countries.

Regional Developments Discussed

NC2407143494 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 18 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "America—Making a Path End in Deadlock"]

[Text] Last week the Middle East witnessed several important incidents that will carve out the future of the region. These incidents were:

—The temporary ending of the civil war in Yemen with the victory of the northerners over the southern forces.
—'Arafat's arrival in Gaza to grant a legal identity to the Palestinian self-rule region;
—King Husayn's acceptance of peace;
—Israel's acceptance of Syrian rule over Golan.

Therefore, only Syria and Lebanon remain to clarify their fates. What is gleaned from the remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is that the Americans are putting pressure on Israel to conclude the peace project as soon as possible so that it can go on to implement its other plans.

If Hafiz al-Asad gives the final yes, automatically Lebanon too will have to solve its problems with Israel, especially when in Lebanese-Israeli relations there is no unsolvable problem like the Golan problem.

Under such conditions, when all the Palestinian groups that oppose the peace process are left without an alternative and will have to review and redefine the future, and if the Syrians and the Israelis achieve a peace agreement, what other alternative will the Palestinians in Syria have but to accept the agreement and come to terms with 'Arafat? And any one of the groups that does not understand this situation will be considered a terrorist by the West and America. Therefore, it is very obvious how 'Arafat has been reduced to silence and has been made to give in.

As for Yemen, it is situated in the Persian Gulf, and Saudi Arabia appears to be extremely unhappy about this. Moreover, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran are also situated in the region.

America claims that it pursues a policy of dual containment on Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran and that it uses one to contain the other. But what is it doing with Yemen?

Kuwait insists that the sanctions on Iraq continue so that Saddam Husayn's situation will be clarified. Saudi Arabia too agrees.

The United Arab Emirates [UAE] is afraid of Kuwait and has also joined in the game against Tehran on the Iranian islands, thus setting off down a futile path which it knows has no return. But it is the wish of others for the UAE to be at loggerheads with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Thus, there are two groups of countries in the Persian Gulf with differing structures; and if they do not come to an agreement on security matters, regional stability will be threatened. Moreover, Israel is entering the scene with full force and intends to make up for all the lost years.

In this triangle, Iraq is the weakest link and is ready to grant any concession in exchange for staying on. Also, America wants to receive necessary information and guarantees from the Yemeni leaders so that the Islamic Republic of Iran can be placed under siege in the region.

America has tested economic sanctions, war, and accusations of terrorism against Iran and it is now preparing to resort to the method of pressure on Tehran.

All facts show that America intends to find a common denominator in all these and to paint a picture of Tehran that will lead all paths to an American deadlock.

It wants to paint a picture of a country that is considered expansionist by its neighbors, terrorist by the world's public, and against human rights by international organizations. This is a favorable situation for America.

And if the days for which the White House is counting the minutes do come, then our country will not be able or have the strength to maneuver in any way.

In order to avoid America's political traps, we should devise a deterrent policy and put all forces to use. Diplomacy is not a wrong technique, but the art of planning ways to disappoint the rival and to win over the enemy.

Depreciation of Dollar Rate Discussed

NC2607075994 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 2

[Commentary by Amin Niku'iyeh: "The Fall of the Price of the Dollar and the Desired Limit"]

[Text] Nowadays, there is much talk in the press about the "slump" in the parity rate of the dollar against the rial. Many people have expressed their opinions and have given interviews citing "some economic experts" as saying: "As long as the foreign exchange policy continues in the present manner, the trend of falling foreign exchange rates will continue until it reaches the level favored by the Central Bank. Therefore, whenever it does, the Central Bank can change its foreign exchange policy by intervening on the foreign exchange market and it can announce the desired floating rates."

According to this viewpoint, there are certain issues that merit mention:

1. What is the desired level preferred by the Central Bank? What are the bases for choosing these levels? What are the criteria or indicators present? What is the Central Bank's assessment of these criteria or indicators? Without obtaining a response to these questions, one cannot accept that the above statement has been made on the basis of rules from experts.

2. If the Central Bank can announce floating rates for foreign exchange within specific and desired levels, why has it not done so? Why have the economic affairs officials (especially those from the Central Bank and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance) allowed the people to sustain losses of billions of rials and put the production units into the current unfavorable position? If there were certain factors that deterred free and responsible policymaking on their part, they should be identified and at least announced to the people.

3. It is said that the Central Bank—by changing some of the aspects of its foreign exchange policy—will be able to reach its desired floating rate, that is, permitting it to be decided by supply and demand and making it flexible enough so that production as well as imports and exports can be organized. If the decision of the Central Bank should be the sole criterion of the value of currency, why is the policy of stabilizing the value of the rial being rejected?

In addition, the weight being given by the Central Bank to each of its foreign exchange policies is not very distinct. If the Central Bank has any judgment regarding the impact of each part of its foreign exchange policies, why has it not implemented or announced this judgment? Perhaps the bank wants to choose the composition of its policies in a fortuitous manner (that is, by trial and error). With such a choice, even after five years of experimenting with various tactics, now it believes that it has stumbled on a wonderful solution!

In any case, the bank officials believe that for some time the economy's doors should remain closed so that the foreign exchange rate can reach a level acceptable to the Central Bank. The time factor has an irrefutable effect on the economy and it cannot be ignored. One may say that in the present situation an economic analysis should be propounded. Should the current situation be justified by miscellaneous ambiguities or should reasons be provided for it?

An intensive glance at the country's economic situation indicates that whenever the government has announced free imports without a transfer of foreign currency, the demand for foreign currency on the market has increased in proportion to the volume of goods imported without any transfer of foreign currency. Whenever the country's foreign exchange officials have permitted export contracts to be negotiated without limits, the market of "exports on paper" seems to have flourished and the foreign exchange rates have spiraled on the free market.

The experience of the past many years has shown that restricting these two policies has resulted in diminishing the profitable trends in the foreign currency market. In the not too distant past there is evidence to support this statement. In the year 1367 [beginning 21 March 1988] the government specified the limits for the import of goods without the transfer of foreign currency and for foreign exchange transactions (of course not a complete halt of imports as the government has announced this month). From the end of 1367 to the beginning of 1368, all the changes in the economic and foreign exchange policies followed a logical and methodical trend and even inflation was on a downward spiral.

Thus, with an understanding of the past and by evaluating past experiences, one can always prevent a repetition of errors. However, the current officials of the country, in particular those in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and in the Central Bank, have remained indifferent to learning from these experiences. By implementing incompatible policies they have brought things to a head in such a manner that they are rejoicing that the dollar has reached the rate of 2,200 rials. If they had correctly analyzed the economic situation, they would have studied the past experiences.

It is regrettable that in the current situation as well the Central Bank does not have a correct perspective of the past. A complete ban on foreign trade will be harmful for the country and for a healthy economy. The questions that arise are: Why is an intensive appraisal of the nature of a favorable foreign exchange policy not presented for Iran's economy? Why is it that with all these problems and fluctuations the country's financial officials do not have an appropriate monetary policy for the economy? Why do they not assess the loss that the current policy is inflicting on the economy?

In addition, there is no doubt even now that one should rejoice at the rate of 2,200 rials to a dollar because, unless the trend is a durable one, it cannot bring about a change in the current economic situation and this rate is not very conducive to the economy and is still too high. By adopting a wise policy it is possible for us to capitalize on the downward trend of the dollar and reactivate our foreign trade. In this manner, we can hope that the requirements of the production units will be logically met and that their needs will be eliminated.

In any case, if the dollar even reaches the parity rate of 2,000 rials, it will still be exorbitantly priced. Therefore, it has to run a much longer course before it reaches the acceptable level. Rejoicing over a situation that is not economically viable cannot be considered acceptable or feasible. Is it not time for us to stop using momentary approaches and start considering active and dynamic policymaking in the foreign exchange department?

Pakistan

Former Intelligence Chief Arrested for Treason

BK2507081294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Islamabad, July 25 (AFP)—Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Imtiaz Ahmad and an aide on charges of high treason, officials said Monday [25 July].

Ahmad, a retired army brigadier, was taken into custody in Rawalpindi late Sunday while Mohammad Aamer, a former major, was arrested at his village in northern district of Swabi, officials said. Treason is punishable by death under the country's law.

Both are accused of involvement in a plot to topple the previous government of current Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 1989 by allegedly bribing deputies to back a no-trust motion against her in the parliament.

Bhutto narrowly survived the parliamentary challenge but was dismissed in August 1990 by president Ghulam Ishaq Khan for alleged mismanagement and corruption. Bhutto was returned to power in elections held last October.

The reports said the FIA could arrest other figures in the case, including a politician who served as minister under former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, now opposition leader.

At the time of the alleged conspiracy, Ahmad was serving in the army and Aamer was associated with the military's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The army high command later retired the two for their alleged role in the plot which was codenamed Operation Midnight Jackals.

Former ISI Chief Forms New Political Party

BK2407103194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Retired Lieutenant General Hamid Gul, former chief of the Inter Service Intelligence [ISI], has announced the formation of a new political party. Addressing newsmen at the Rawalpindi Press Club yesterday, he said that he will soon convene a convention to finalize the name of his political movement. He said his party will strive to bring an end to communalism and ethnic prejudice and will fulfill the country's defense needs.

Joint Chiefs Discuss Effective Defense

BK2607114394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[Text] Islamabad: In light of the massive Indian military build up and its security implications for Pakistan, the Joint Staff Committee (JSC) Monday discussed threadbare the national security agenda, with a consensus to sharpen the cutting edge of the forces.

"India's hegemonic designs and the increased oppression being unleashed on innocent people in the Indian held Kashmir were the two top subjects on the agenda of the JSC, and the services' chiefs spent much of the time to counter the emerging security threats following test-firing of the short-range ballistic missile Prithvi by India" defence sources told The News.

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam presided over the strategic policy evolving JSC confluence. COAS, [chief of army staff] General Abdul Waheed, Air Chief Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, Naval Chief Admiral Saeed Khan and some other high-ranking civil and military officials attended the deliberations.

Informed sources say that the meeting discussed at length the possibility of launching a short-range ballistic missile programme, which could prove effective enough to counter the Prithvi threat. A strategy for undertaking a missile programme in cooperation with some of the countries friendly to Pakistan was also chalked out by the meeting.

The armed forces top brass viewed the regional situation against the backdrop of increased Indian brutalities in Occupied Kashmir and India's reported interference in Afghanistan.

The issue of non-supply of equipment from US under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) also came under consideration, with a consensus that concerted efforts should be made to convince the US leadership that the non-supply of US military equipment to Pakistan would cause imbalance in the regional situation. However, the meeting was unanimous on Pakistan's principled position not to compromise on the nuclear programme.

The meeting has also shown concern over recent incidents of manhandling Pakistani diplomats in New Delhi.

A corps commanders conference will be held on Tuesday morning at the General headquarters.

'Normal Diplomatic Functioning' With India Urged

BK2507133094 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Imperatives"]

[Text] The first round of talks between India and Pakistan to review the implementation of the code of conduct for treatment of diplomats ended without producing any tangible result, as they were designed only to arrest the downward slide in relations by just meeting and conveying to each other their respective points of view. The Pakistani side regretted the "aggressive surveillance and intimidatory behaviour" of Indian intelligence agencies which have vitiated the atmosphere between the two countries. It also highlighted the manner in which the Indian authorities have systematically and repeatedly violated the code of conduct since its signing. The Indian side also conveyed its point of view and stressed that the "entire range" of issues relating to the functioning of the Indian diplomatic establishment in Pakistan needs "serious discussion" and India was ready to do so. Another round of such talks would be held shortly.

The importance of normal diplomatic functioning between any two countries can hardly be stressed in modern times. It assumes added significance when relations between the countries are not at their best. They provide a direct link between the two countries and minimise chance of any reservation on each other's intentions. Pakistan and India have different perceptions on several issues concerning both the countries. They have already fought three wars and can hardly afford another one. As such, normal diplomatic functioning is vital for both of them. In order to ensure this both the countries signed a code of conduct way back in August 1992. But its implementation has been shelved by India due to its domestic problems, for it needs some foreign proxies to divert the attention of its people from the problems facing the country. The basic problem with India is its exaggerated sense of self-importance based on its geographical largeness and stratified caste system. The practical demonstration of this is India's unremittingly aggressive behaviour towards her small neighbours. Undiplomatic behaviour with foreign diplomats is one dimension of the same snobbish habit of mind. Human rights violations and frenzied arms manufacturing can be termed the other ones. India urgently needs to correct its vision about itself and then re-arrange its priorities accordingly. Above all, it should try to instill a sense of confidence among its neighbours through non-aggressive behaviour. Being the biggest country in the region, India has a special responsibility in this regard which, regrettably, it is not discharging.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Arrives, Holds Talks

BK2607033494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Talks between Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and his Uzbek counterpart, Saidmukhtar Saidqasymov, were held in Islamabad today. Mr. Saidqasymov flew into the city this morning on a three-day official visit.

Quoting diplomatic sources, PTV [Pakistan Television] representative says that the two sides held wide-ranging talks on bilateral relations, regional, and international situation. Bilateral relations covered diverse views including communications, economic and commercial relations, and banking. Our correspondent understands that the international and regional situation, including situation in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, were also discussed. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali is also understood to have briefed Mr. Saidqasymov on the current situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir and gross human rights violations being committed by the occupation forces there.

During the just concluded visit of Pakistan's parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Hamid Nassir Chatha to Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan's response to Pakistan's principled stand on Jammu and Kashmir dispute was positive. The foreign minister during talks with the Pakistan's parliamentary delegation had stated that Tashkent shares Islamabad's concern over Jammu and Kashmir dispute and fully supports the need for political solution of the problem.

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